THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS

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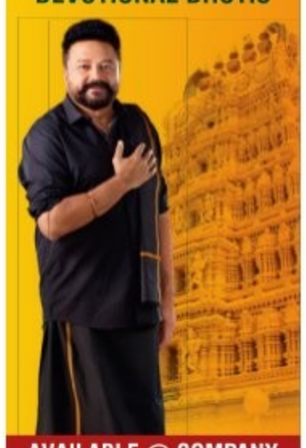
CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

Europe deal done on world's first comprehensive AI rules

The bloc's 27 countries overcame big differences on various points, including generative AI and police use of facial recognition surveillance, to sign a tentative political agreement for the Artificial Intelligence Act. "Deal!" tweeted European Commissioner Thierry Breton. "The EU becomes the very first continent to set clear rules for the use of AI," he said

LET YOUR DEVOTION TO GOD BE AS PURE AS RAMRAJ

RAMRAJ COTTON DEVOTIONAL DHOTIS



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adani Presents DEVI WOMEN'S AWARDS FOR DYNAMISM & INNOVATION

HONOURING THE DEVIS

CEO of *The New Indian Express* Lakshmi Menon, former Lt Governor of Puducherry Kiran Bedi, Editorial Director of *TNIE* Prabhu Chawla and Resident Editor of *TNIE* Odisha Siba Mohanty light the lamp at the Devi Awards, in Bhubaneswar on Saturday. The Devi Awards were conferred upon Lipika Singh Darai, Pankaja Sethi, Aboli Sunil Naravane, Sukanti Meher, Akshita Bhanja Deo, Mrinalika Bhanja Deo, Rosalin Patsani, Dr Swati Nayak, Ramita Singh, Monalisa Bal, Sushmita Bagchi and Gayatribala Panda | DEBADATTA MALLICK

REPORT: P5

Moitra set to challenge her expulsion in SC

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

TRINAMOOL Congress leader **Mahua Moitra**, expelled from the Lok Sabha on cash-for-query charges on Friday, is set to approach the Supreme Court to challenge the decision of the ethics committee, according to sources.

"Moitra might approach the Supreme Court soon. She has been consulting legal experts to seek their views," said a source. She was expelled after the Lok Sabha adopted the report of the ethics committee, which held her guilty of "unethical conduct" and contempt of the House. The panel also recommended an "intense, legal, institutional inquiry" by the Centre.

Former Lok Sabha secretary general P D T Achary said Moitra has the option of challenging the expulsion in the Supreme Court on the grounds of natural justice and principles of fair hearing. He said the ethics panel does not have the jurisdiction to punish a member. "The ethics committee recommended expulsion on account of 'unethical conduct' and serious misdemeanor. How do they define unethical conduct?" he asked, adding the allegations that Moitra received cash and gifts from a businessman to ask questions in the Lok Sabha should have been probed by the privileges committee. While the panel held her guilty of compromising national security by sharing her Parliament login ID and password with unauthorised persons, Achary argued that there were no rules that prohibit MPs from doing so. "In the absence of any rule of law, what violation are they talking about? Under Article 20 of the Constitution, a person cannot be punished unless there is an offence committed as per law," he asserted.

SAME SEAT LIKELY FOR MOITRA

Mahua Moitra's expulsion would dominate Mamata's protest in Delhi on Dec 17. Party sources say Moitra has been directed to spend as much time as she used to give to Krishnanagar, her constituency, as Mamata gave a clear hint that the Trinamool would field her from the same seat in the next LS polls | P8

Moitra was not allowed to speak on the floor of the House. She should have been allowed to cross-examine those who had made allegations against her. This is an accepted practice

PDT Achary, former LS secretary general

Day after Ali joined LS walkout, BSP suspends him

PARVEZ SULTAN @ New Delhi

A day after BSP's Lok Sabha member **Kunwar Danish Ali** joined the Opposition walkout from the House in protest against Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra's expulsion, his party suspended him for anti-party activities. All other BSP members had remained seated in the House during the walkout.

BSP general secretary Satish Chandra Misra wrote to the Amroha MP saying the action was taken in the interest of the party as he didn't pay heed to oral warnings on multiple occasions. "You were told verbally many times that you should not make any statement or take any action against the policies, ideology and discipline of the party, but despite this you have been continuously acting against the party," Misra's letter read. "Today's decision is unfortunate," Ali said. It is speculated that he could contest the 2024 Lok Sabha polls on a Congress ticket.

At ₹290 cr, highest blackmoney haul

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

AFTER four consecutive days of searches by the Income Tax department at Congress' Rajya Sabha member Dheeraj Sahu's residences and his Boudh Distillery premises in Jharkhand and Odisha, ₹300 crore in cash has been seized. This is the highest-ever haul by the agency in a single operation, a source said. As of now, notes worth ₹290 crore have been counted.

The volume of money is such that all cash-counting machines used for the operation conked off. The department has brought in more machines. I-T Department Director General Sanjay Bahadur said it will take at least two more days to count it. Only then will the department share information. The department also seized three bags of jewellery.

The raids began on December 6. So far, 30 almirahs have been seized at Baldeo Sahu & Group of Companies, one of the largest country-liquor manufacturers in Odisha. Of the 30 almirahs, nine were filled with bundles ₹100, ₹200 and ₹500 notes.

Baldeo Sahu & Group of Companies is reported to be a partnership firm of Boudh Distillery, which is linked to Sahu. Searches are on at the Ranchi and Lohardaga residences of Sahu and in Odisha's Bolangir, Sambalpur, and Kalahandi.

They have also seized ₹7 crore from Sahu's Lohardaga residence. Union Home Minister Amit Shah said nobody would have seen such a pile of cash in their lifetime except bank employees.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh sought to build distance from Sahu, saying, "The Indian National Congress is in no way connected with the businesses of Dheeraj Sahu, MP. Only he can explain, and should explain, how huge amounts of cash have been reportedly unearthed."

Registration for Yuva Nidhi scheme from December 21

RAMAKRISHNA BADSESHI @ Kalaburagi

MINISTER for Medical Education and Skill Development Dr Sharanprakash Patil said on Saturday that registration for the Yuva Nidhi scheme, the fifth guarantee of the Congress government, will start from December 21.

Dr Patil told *TNIE* that the scheme will be launched next month. The date of its launch will be decided shortly. Beneficiaries will start receiving financial assistance after the launch of the scheme. Nearly five lakh youth will benefit from the scheme, he said.

Under the scheme, Rs 3,000 per month will be given to unemployed graduates and Rs 1,500 to diploma graduates. P4

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Industrial Plot/ Industrial Building./
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CANARA BANK, CIRCLE OFFICE, BENGALURU

150
Treated more than 150 patients for free during Covid-19. More than 50 patients were over 60

He is well-versed with crops, market prices, best marketplaces and seasons to sell harvests

Patients wait at Dr GB Bidinhal's clinic on KC Rani Road in Gadag | D HEMANTH

SURGEON BY PROFESSION, FARMER AT HEART

At 68, this doctor works in his field and also guides other farmers in agriculture

RAGHOTTAM KOPPAR @Gadag

EXTENDING social services to the public and fulfilling his passion, striving in the fields, Dr GB Bidinhal, a 68-year-old surgeon from Gadag stands the odds of his age and continues to work on his farm till date. He hails from Musthikoppa near Mundargi town of Gadag district. Completing his MBBS and MS from KIMS Hubballi, he has the reputation of being one of the finest doctors in Gadag and surrounding areas. Today, he runs his own hospital, 'Renuka' on KC Rani Road, where he treats 25-30 patients a day. He charges nothing from the poor he treats and his warmth has attracted the young and old towards his care. His patients say that he treats them with a smile on his face, boosting their morale to get well soon. "His hands have magic in them, which is why we have been healed of our diseases," said one patient. Besides, he considers his patients as his own and treats them like a brother, being there for them and taking their illnesses as his own.

He also works as a social worker who has helped differently abled children buy different equipment for their needs and education. On the other hand, he exercises regularly and runs for an hour at the Gadag outdoor stadium. His commitment to staying fit and healthy has helped him come first in the walkathon, 100-metre relay and 10 km marathon at the Andhra Pradesh Olympics. His fame brought laurels to Karnataka and Gadag, motivating many, young and old, to be active while pursuing their passion. On his return, he received a warm welcome from the people of the district. Gadag Chamber of Commerce and Industries awarded him the Kreeda Shree on November 30.

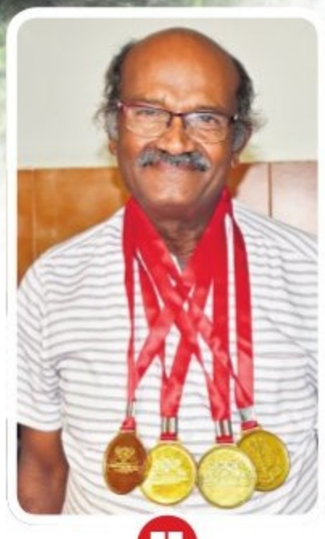
Young at heart

Alternatively, he is also keen in farming and planting crops. Despite a hectic schedule, he visits his farm after his daytime job as a surgeon. He has sketched a schedule for himself, amidst his packed lifestyle as a surgeon, to work on his field and fulfil his passions. Being born to farmer parents Bharamappa and Bharamavva, Bidinhal who has completed his MS, did not forget his farming roots even after he started professing as a surgeon. Owing to his roots and his intense interest in farming, he is well aware of crops and the current market price. From knowing all about crop prices at the APMC market to making suggestions to farmers about best prices and places to sell at, Bidinhal possesses deep knowledge about crops. For instance, he advised farmers who had grown chilli last year, when they suffered losses, to sell the same at Byadgi market for better prices.

Kalamanji Venkatagiriyappa Srinivas, a hotelier from Gadag said, "I have known Bidinhal for the last three decades. He is a very down-to-earth individual who has helped poor students in their education and has lent amply to the needy. Whenever I am sick, I approach him and blindly believe the medicines he suggests. It's not the medicines but the magic in his hands that has cured me so far. I am sure the entire taluk of Gadag and surrounding villages would agree with me."

Further, retired professor Sharanabasava Venkatapur from Gadag stated he has not seen a more dynamic surgeon who is 68 and still works in farms. "He is young at heart when he works on the fields. His enthusiasm has inspired many doctors in Gadag to maintain their health and exercise regularly. We congratulate him for the four gold medals he achieved."

Speaking to *The New Sunday Express*, Bidinhal stated that he is a farmer at heart but chose to work as a doctor. "Working on the fields gives a sense of self-satisfaction. I have grown chilli peppers, onions and cotton on my farm. Though I am a surgeon, farming is a part of my life and I cannot abandon the profession of my parents. I know places where I can sell my crops for the best prices. I thank my patients for their love and support. I appreciate their praises but I have only performed my duty as a doctor," he added.



We suffered so much pain during the pandemic. I treated people to keep up the spirit of humanity. It was my duty during those dark days to treat them without demanding any money

- Dr GB Bidinhal

Warmer winter may affect mango yield

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

A FEW days ago it was cloudy and cold, coupled with light showers, due to a cyclone over Tamil Nadu. But the temperature is going up already, despite winter coming soon.

According to officials at the India Meteorological Department (IMD), temperatures are predicted to be 1-2 degrees Celsius above normal during the day and night this year, which means that there will be no biting cold experience this season. This will have multiple impact, including the yield of king of fruits – mango, which flowers in December.

A Prasad, scientist, IMD Bengaluru, told The New Sunday Express that because of the El Nino effect, the day (maximum) temperature will be one degree Celsius above normal and the minimum (night) temperature will be 2 degrees Celsius above normal, and Bengaluru is already experiencing it. Usually, winter starts from end of December, but in Bengaluru and parts of south-interior Karnataka it starts from the first week of December. Last year, it started from the second week. This year there will be no winter chill, but the weather will be cool and pleasant. Last year, the lowest minimum recorded in December was 15 degreess Celsius. This year, it will probably be on the higher side. The light winter experience will be across Karnataka.

As per IMD records, the city on Wednesday recorded maximum and minimum temperatures of 31.2 and 20.4 degrees Celsius. On Thursday, it recorded a maximum of 31.2 and minimum of 20.4 degrees Celsius. The normal temperatures for Bengaluru for the season are 26.9 and 16.4 degrees Celsius, respectively.

On mangoes, CG Nagaraju, Managing Director, Karnataka State Mango Development and Marketing Corporation, said flowering has been less so far as this is not the season yet. The recent cyclone that brought rain in parts of Karnataka, including Srinivaspur -- where the fruits are grown on large tracts of land, also impacted flowering.

He explained that mango is a hardy crop, but sensitive to climatic conditions.It needs cool evening and night temperatures and warm days for the stress to be induced in flowers to get a good yield. To discuss the climatic conditions and decide the next course of action, a technical committee meeting is going to be held in the coming days, he added.

SUPER GRAIN

MILLETS CAN MITIGATE GLOBAL WARMING: DR VALI

PURAN CHOUDHARY @Bengaluru

WITHIN 18 years, global warming can be mitigated if farmers stop growing rice, wheat and sugarcane. If millets are grown instead, over 10.4 billion metric tonne of carbon dioxide can be reduced around the world, said Dr Khadar Vali, nutritionist, popularly known as the Millet Man of India.

Dr Vali explained that millets grow by themselves and don't need much assistance. Karnataka, currently facing drought in several districts, can easily grow millets, which are versatile. "Come rain or shine, millets can be grown in drought areas as they can flourish between 10 degrees and 45 degrees Celsius because of the genomic content of the grain. However unfortunately, our food culture has increasingly become monoculture between rice and wheat," he said.

For the last 30 years, Dr Vali has been propagating the benefits of millets and creating awareness on how the super foodgrains can keep diseases in check. "We need robust research on millets that will make them acceptable in society. Millets can protect your mitochondria and safeguard your body against microbial imbalance and hormonal imbalance. If you eat millet every day, you will get rid of diabetes, thyroid, cancers and all other diseases that will be thrown out of your body. Each year, $827 billion is collected by diabetic pharmacies," he claimed during the conversation.

Currently, millets constitute only 1.5 to 1.8 per cent of the total grains produced in the country. "We need to focus more on rain-fed agriculture and initiate policy changes. Subsidies should be made available to farmers who depend on rain for their farming. Only when we popularise eating millets in society will farmers be able to grow them. A demand needs to be created," he emphasised.

Dr Vali said he has been consuming millets for the last 30 years and every meal can be a millet meal. He emphasised the need to make midday meals only out of millets so that they are more nutritious. He explained that experts, doctors and agriculturists need to come together to create a movement on millets.

Kodandaram Ramaiah (right) with senior journalist Ramakrishna Upadhya in Bengaluru on Saturday | EXPRESS

Biography of Dr MS Ramaiah to be released on December 12

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

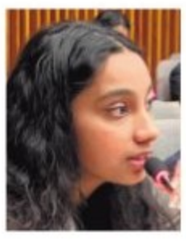
A PICTORIAL biography of Dr MS Ramaiah, philanthropist, educationist and businessman, will be released by Union minister Nitin Gadkari and former Lokayukta Santosh Hegde here on December 12. The book titled "Ramaiyanam", written by senior journalist Ramakrishna Upadhya, explores the remarkable journey of building dams in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Bihar in the late 1940s. Upadhya, through conversations with several people who have worked with Ramaiah, has combined his inspirational journey in short stories with anecdotes.

Addressing the media on Saturday, Kodandaram Ramaiah, Trustee of Gokula Education Foundation and son of the late philanthropist, said, "There are already two books in Kannada on Dr Ramaiah – 'Deemantha Sahukararu' and 'Apoorva Sadhaka'. We wanted to reach a wider audience in India and abroad and pay tribute to my father's achievements and life. The 150-page book in English offers a glimpse into his humble life." The book release event will be held at the Leela Palace at 4.30 pm on December 12.

Bengaluru girl showcases her skills at UN summit

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

A TENTH grader from Bengaluru showcased her skill at the 1-Million 1-Billion (1M1B) summit held at the United Nations recently. Veruschka Pandey, a youth changemaker from The International School, Bengaluru participated in the 1M1B Activate Impact Youth Summit held at the United Nations. It was hosted by the 1M1B Foundation on November 30 in New York. She presented her project Surya Nayak, which showcased her contribution to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in India.



Veruschka has been working on giving CPR training to ASHA workers, bus drivers, factory workers and security personnel in Bengaluru and other parts of Karnataka. She has been creating awareness, spreading information and training people. "I not only want to create awareness but a mass movement among health workers and the Indian youth to achieve the SDGs by 2030," she said at the summit, adding that our hearts are like vessels which has space for empathy, love and life. Further, she stated that it is our responsibility to save people from untimely death by educating them about CPR.

Her thoughts and works were also showcased through a documentary 'Heart is a Vessel' at the UN, followed by a panel discussion which included her mentor Manav Subodh and Amit Madheshiya, an award winning movie maker at the Cannes Film Festival. A documentary on Veruschka by Madheshiva was also screened at the event.

PR/ Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj met the youth changemaker at the Permanent Mission of India, where she engaged on a broad spectrum of issues, including Agenda 2030 and SDG implementation in India.

SAMARTHANAM'S 'HEALTH FOR ALL' WALKATHON

Bengaluru: Emphasising the pivotal theme -- 'Health for All', Samarthanam, an NGO advocating for disability rights, in line with the UN global mission, aiming to champion the wellbeing of individuals with disabilities, while nurturing inclusivity across societal landscapes held a walkathon on Saturday. Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao, who flagged off the walkathon, said, "Health holds crucial significance for everyone, particularly for the disabled. Prioritising health equity is imperative. Samarthanam's Walkathon serves as a vehicle for spreading awareness about health and hygiene across diverse communities, emphasising the fundamental right to good health." Dr Mahantesh G Kivadasannavar, Founder Trustee of Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled and Chairman of the Cricket Association for the Blind in India said that the "Health for All' theme signifies the essentiality of staying fit and active in our lives".

EXPRESS READ

K'taka Postal Circle organises heritage walk

Bengaluru: Karnataka Postal Circle conducted a 'heritage walk' as a prelude to KARNAPEX-2024 on Saturday at 8 am, from MMS (Mail Motor Service) building. 'KARNAPEX- 2024, A Festival of Stamps' is the 13th state level exhibition which will be organised from January 5-8, 2024 at Sree Kanteerava Indoor stadium from 10 am to 5 pm. The heritage walk was held as a preview to showcase the collection of stamps and educate citizens about history, art and culture. The walk set off from the MMS building and concluded at Sandesh Museum at Museum Road Post Office.

Davanagere Superintendent of Police Uma Prashanth on Thursday said police constable BV Manjunath, who was allegedly involved in accepting bribe from an accused who was arrested on charges of POCSO, has been suspended from service

NIA detains B'luru man in ISIS case, 15 held in Maha

Agency suspects arrested individuals had contact with and were residing with militants from banned organisation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE National Investigation Agency (NIA) conducted raids at 44 locations in Maharashtra and Karnataka, including Frazer Town in Bengaluru, on Saturday in connection with the ISIS terror module case.

In all, 15 ISIS operatives were arrested during the raids in the two states. They all hail from Thane district in Maharashtra. The central agency raided the residence of Ali Abbas, who hails from Mumbai and has been residing with his family on Moore Road in Frazer Town for three years, around 5.30 am and seized a mobile phone, a laptop, and some incriminating documents from him.

The NIA sleuths have taken Abbas into custody for questioning. Abbas has been reportedly

working as a real estate agent associated with a private firm after quitting his job during the pandemic. The central agency suspects the arrested individuals of being in contact with and residing with some militants from the banned ISIS organisation.

The raids were conducted after the ISIS operatives arrested earlier revealed the names of those involved in aiding and promoting terror activities, including fabrication of improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

Primary investigations revealed that the main accused, Saqib Nachan, wanted to make Padgha village in rural Thane district as a "liberated zone" and administer "bayath" or the oath of allegiance to the khalifa of ISIS to those joining the terror organisation, according to a press release from NIA.

During the raids, the NIA seized unaccounted cash, firearms, sharp-edged weapons, incriminating documents, smartphones and digital devices, the press release said.

₹1.98 CR ONLINE HEIST

Fake sleuths keep bizman on virtual call for three days

RISHITA KHANNA @ Bengaluru

CYBERFRAUDSTERS virtually confined a 46-year-old businessman in the city for three days and cheated him of Rs 1.98 crore.

The cybercriminals trapped Manish, the businessman, by posing as sleuths from Mumbai Crime Branch and threatened to arrest him stating that a FedEx courier in his name contained drugs.

The fraudsters, who appeared in uniform during the video call, told Manish that he is under the crime branch's surveillance, and asked him not to cut the call till they completed the formalities regarding his courier containing drugs. Then, they threatened to arrest him if he did not transfer money to their bank account. The call continued for three days and the fraudsters directed him to transfer money to evade arrest.

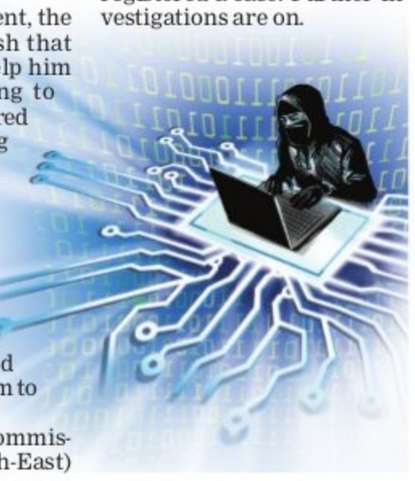
After the first payment, the fraudsters told Manish that they were trying to help him out and kept speaking to him till they transferred Rs 1.98 crore, leaving only Rs 500 in his bank account.

Manish's family members, who got to know about these online transactions, advised him to end the video call. It was only then Manish realised that he had fallen victim to cybercrime.

CK Baba, Deputy Commissioner of Police (South-East) Division, said, "Cyber fraudsters exploit the victims by claiming that they are from law enforcement agencies. In such cases, people should visit the local police station for verification. Timely reporting is crucial."

"FedEx does not request personal information through unsolicited phone calls, mails or emails for goods being shipped or held unless requested or initiated by customers. If people receive any suspicious calls or messages, they are advised not to provide their personal information. Instead, they should immediately contact the local law enforcement authorities or report to the Cybercrime Department," a statement from FedEx said after eight fraudsters were arrested in connection with a courier scam recently.

South-East CEN police have registered a case. Further investigations are on.



HC to restore VC hearings from Dec 11

ENS @ Bengaluru

THE Karnataka High Court has come out with new guidelines for hearing cases through video conference (VC) in all its benches in Bengaluru, Dharwad and Kalaburagi on a pilot basis from December 11.

The HC suspended VC and live streaming of court proceedings on December 5 after miscreants played obscene content in some of the court halls by logging into the Zoom meeting platform.

According to the communication issued by the high court Registrar (computers) on Saturday, all advocates, party-in-persons, litigants and government departments shall get themselves compulsorily registered on the Zoom platform as a one-time measure by sign-up procedure. Only such registered users are allowed to join the VC for the court hall proceedings. Before registering, they have to mandatorily register in the High Court Online Digital Case Diary portal by visiting https://karnatakajudiciary.kar.nic.in/advreg/ which is necessary to give them access to VC. Those logging in should put the Cause List number, case no and name attending the proceedings. Participants from outside India should in advance send an email to the Registrar (Judicial) (regjudicial@hck.gov.in) requesting permission to join the VC links.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah pays last respects to veteran actor Leelavathi in Bengaluru on Saturday | EXPRESS

Thousands bid adieu to Leelavathi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar and others paid tributes to veteran actor Leelavathi, who passed away on Friday owing to respiratory problems and age-related ailments. Thousands of people visited Ravindra Kalakshetra, where her mortal remains were kept in state for the public to pay homage, till Saturday afternoon.

Modi shared a post on social media platform X and said, "Sad to hear the news of the demise of renowned actor Leelavati. A true icon of cinema, she graced the silver screen with her versatile acting in numerous films. Her diverse roles and remarkable talent will always be remembered and admired."

Siddaramaiah, who visited Ravindra Kalakshetra, called Leelavathi a complete actress, and said, "Whichever role she performed, she did it with honesty and integrity. She used to pour her soul to bring the character to life. She acted in period movies, films with social messages and mythology and in every film, she did justice to her character."

He recalled that her role in 'Bhakta Kumbara' was unforgettable, and it remained etched in his memory forever.

The actor's mortal remains were later taken to her farmhouse at Soldevanhalli on the outskirts of the city, where her son Vinod Raj performed the last rites. She was laid to rest with government honour.

Woman falls to death while cleaning house

ENS @ Bengaluru

A 31-year-old woman died after she reportedly lost her balance and fell from her fifth floor apartment while cleaning a window on Saturday.

The deceased, Khushboo Ashish Trivedi, was standing on a shoe rack and cleaning a window when she fell. She was staying on the fifth floor of an 18-storey BDA apartment complex in KR Puram. Around 4.30 pm, Khusbhoo was cleaning her apartment from outside, while her maid was cleaning the kitchen. Khusbhoo's in-laws were in a room and her husband was at work. After the fall, she had sustained severe head injuries and was being rushed to a hospital. She died on the way.

Khusbhoo, who was from Rajkot, was working at a German company for the last three years. The Kadugodi police have registered a case of unnatural death.

PLATFORM TO AID INNOVATIONS IN MATERNAL, CHILD HEALTH

ENS @ Bengaluru

THE India Nutrition Collaborative announced the launch of the Poshan Innovation Platform (PIP), India's first collaborative incubator for innovations in maternal and child health, facilitating seed funding and investment opportunities for scaling innovations.

It was launched in association with the office of the Principal Scientific Advisor to the Central government at the Bengaluru Design Week on Saturday, aiming to strengthen nutritional status. Experts noted that innovations were largely tech-driven and focused on urban areas, ignoring accessibility at the last mile in most cases.

Focussing on reducing the levels of stunting and wasting among young children, and anaemia in women of reproductive age group, the platform calls for innovations in areas like gender equity, digital equity, market equity and promoting nutrition-seeking behaviour.

Dr Sapna Poti, Director of Strategic Alliances at the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser, stated that the state of nutrition is 'pretty bad' in India, with the country ranking 101 of the 116 in the Global Hunger Index 2023. It is not just people from low socio-economic backgrounds that are affected but the ones from affluent backgrounds too. Hence, innovations can also not be limited to solely nutrition but all factors contributing to it.

Most initiatives end up being 'cute experiments' as they do not move beyond the laboratories due to lack of mentorship or financial support. This platform will help evaluate scalable innovations which will also build their credibility, she added.

Dr Smriti Pahwa of India Nutrition Collaborative said, "In order to combat malnutrition in the country, there is a need to address the problem of 'ineffective delivery and uptake'."

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, **Sri.R.A.SARAVANA**, S/o. Sri.R. Arumugam, R/at No:20, Puttanna lane, Ranasinghpet, Bengaluru-560053, to bring to the notice of the general public that I have lost the original sale deed dated 20/10/1994, which is registered as document No.2080/1995-96, registered in the office of the sub-registrar Gandhinagar, Bangalore, with respect to property bearing Corporation New No:25/1, Old No:35 & 36, situated at Ranasinggpete, Puttanagalli Bangalore City, if the founder of the said document may kindly return to the under signed. Further this notice is being to the notice that the undersigned is not responsible for the misuse of the said document. The undersigned already given complainant to the Ulsoor gate police station regarding to the same

T.N.RAJASHEKAR, Advocate
Off at No.14, 13th Cross, Cubbonpet, Bengaluru-02. Ph: 9620645470

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public are informed that my client Saraswathamma W/o Late Narasareddy is the absolute owner of the Site No. 420, formed in Sy.No. 90, presently BBMP PID/Katha No. 90/420 of Thanisandra Village, K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bengaluru, Measuring East-West 30 ft and North-South 50 ft, she have lost the document i.e., Original Title Deed (Hakku Pathara) bearing Document No.8942, dated 02/10/2017, issued by the Deputy Commissioner to the her husband, while traveling from home to Kothanuru Village. If any person found the document same may be intimated me and award suitable reward.

Jaganatha Reddy .Y.N, Advocate
No.25/1, 2nd Floor, "Ananda Nivas", 3rd Cross, 6th Main, Gandhinagar, Bangalore-560 009.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RWSS DIVISION, KORAPUT
e-mail-eerwss_kpt@rediffmail.com/ Ph.No. 06852-250281(Off), Ph.No. 06852-250680 (Res) Fax.No.06852-251098.
National Competitive Bidding Through E-Procurement
Tender Identification No.16/EE/RWSS/KPT/2023-24/08.12.2023

O-1759: The Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Koraput on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate Bids in Double cover (P1 contract) from the eligible class of experienced registered contractors through e-Tendering system for the Piped water supply works as detailed in DTCN. The bid should be submitted on-line in the website **www.tenderorissa.gov.in** separately for the works.

1.	Nature of work.	:	Rural piped water supply Projects under Koraput District
2.	Estimated Cost.	:	Varies from **84.44 lakhs to 365.65 lakhs**
3.	Total Nos of works	:	2 nos.
4.	Tender cost	:	Rs.10.000.00
5.	Class of Contractor.	:	**"B" & "A"**
6.	Availability of Bid document in the web site	:	Dt. 18.12.2023 at 17.00 hours to 27.12.2023 up to 17.00 hours.
7.	Date of Seeking clarification.	:	During the Office hours of 18.12.2023 to 26.12.2023
8.	Date of Opening of Bid.	:	Dt. 28.12.2023 at 11.00 AM

Further details can be seen in the bidding documents which is available in the e-procurement portal **https//www.tendersorissa.gov.in** Subsequent corrigendum if required shall be appeared in the web site Authority reserves the right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
RWS&S Division, Koraput

OIPR-25034/11/0028/2324

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that our client intends to purchase the property described in the Schedule herein from its owners **Mrs. Saira Banu W/o (Late Syed Noor Inayath Ulla), Shabeena Parveen, Syed Khasim, Ayesha Reshma, Seema Fathima, Rokhiya Nazima Arshad.** Any person or persons having any claims or objections to the above transaction are required to forward same to the undersigned along with the relevant materials, within fifteen (15) days from today. In the absence of any claims or objections within the above said period it shall be deemed that there are no claims or objections or that they have been waived and the deed of conveyance will be entered into by our client without any further reference in this regard.

Schedule Property.

1.ALL THAT PART AND PARCEL of the Property bearing **Sy.No. 222,** measuring 4 acres and 35 guntas of land, situated at Sathanur Village, Sathanur Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District.
East by: Government tank, West by: Survey No. 225 of Sathanur,
North by: Land of Shivalingaiah, South by: Government Road.

2. ALL THAT PART AND PARCEL of the Property bearing **Sy.No.225,** measuring 2 acres and 37 guntas of land, situated at Sathanur Village, Sathanur Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District.
East by: Survey No. 222 of Sathanur, West by: Survey No. 226 of Sathanur,
North by: Halla, South by: Government Road.

3. ALL THAT PART AND PARCEL of the Property bearing **Sy. No.226,** measuring 0.32 Guntas of land, situated at Sathanur Village, Sathanur Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara, District.
East by : Survey No. 225 of Sathanur, West by: Survey No. 227 of Sathanur,
North by: Halla, South by: Government Road.

4. ALL THAT PART AND PARCEL of the Property bearing **Sy. No.227,** measuring 2 acres and 35 guntas of land, situated at Sathanur Village, Sathanur Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District.
East by: Survey No. 226 of Sathanur, West by: Government Tank,
North by: Halla, South by: Government Road.

5. ALL THAT PART AND PARCEL of the property bearing **Sy No. 262,** measuring 0-16 guntas, situated at Sathanur Village, Sathanur Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District.
East by: Sarkari halla, West by: Land of Hibjunnissa,
North by: Sarkari Halla, South by: Land of Dr. Shivalingaiah.

Date: 10.12.2023
Place: Bangalore

Sd/-
SAI ASSOCIATES
#15C, 5th Cross Malleshwaram, Opposite Smart Bazaar, Bangalore-560003
Ph- 7619610590 / 9880932950

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby notified by Sri. Naveen Kumar S/o Dasaradan Naidu , DooravaniNagar, Bangalore has lost the original Sale deed dated 21/06/1991, executed by Sri Krishna Reddy, in favour of Sri. Dasaradan Naidu registered as document no 675/91-92, Book I, volum 296 , pages 11 to 14, in the office of Sub-Registrar, KR Puram, Site no. 26, Khatha No.60/3 has not traceable. If found inform to below mention address.
Naveen Kumar S/o Dasaradan Naidu ,
#25, 3rd Main, 8th Cross, Hoysalanagar
Near Telephonic Exchange,
Dooravani Nagar,
Bangalore North-560016,
phone: 9845137590

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GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY
PUDUCHERRY REAL ESTATE REGULATORY AUTHORITY
OFFICE OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEPARTMENT
INVITING FOR APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER IN PUDUCHERRY REAL ESTATE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

The Government of Puducherry as mandated under section 20 of the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 (No.16 of 2016) hereby invites applications for **appointment of one Member in Puducherry Real Estate Regulatory Authority (PRERA)**. Complete information on qualification, eligibility criteria, application format and other details may be obtained from the website of Town and Country Planning Department (**https://tcpd.py.gov.in**). Application in the prescribed format along with supporting documents should reach the office of Town and Country Planning Department (TCPD), Puducherry on or before **9th January 2024 at 5.45 P.M.**

Chief Town Planner, TCPD-Cum-Nodal Officer, PRERA
Jawahar Nagar, Boomianpet,
Puducherry-605 005.
No.506/DIP/AD(Press)/2023-24

GOVT. OF ODISHA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER
DRAINAGE CIRCLE, UNIT-8 BHUBANESWAR-751012
E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE NO. ACEDC-BBSR-04/2023-24
A-974 email Id :- sedrainagebbsr12@gmail.com

1.	Total number of Packages	:	1 no. of work as mentioned below.
2.	Name of Works	:	Renovation of Hariraipur drainage channel and link drains under Luna-Ratnachira drainage system of Delanga Block, Doab-VII.
3.	Estimated Cost	:	Rs. 2,66,70,381.00
4.	Bid Identification No.	:	ACEDC-BBSR/DD-PURI-11/2023-24
5.	Period of completion	:	11(Eleven) Calendar months.
6.	Class of Contractor.	:	B & A
7.	Date and time of availability of Bid Document in the portal.	:	12.12.2023, 11.00 Hours to 26.12.2023, 17.00 Hours.
8.	Date of Opening of Technical Bid.	:	27.12.2023 at 11.00 hours in the O/o the Additional Chief Engineer, Drainage Circle, Unit-8, Bhubaneswar.
9.	Date and time of receipt of Bids in the portal.	:	12.12.2023, 11.00 Hours to 26.12.2023, 17.00 Hours.
10.	Last date and time of receipt of Bids in the portal.	:	26.12.2023, 17.00 Hours.
11.	Date of opening of financial Bid.	:	To be uploaded in Portal after evaluation of technical bids.
12.	Date of Lottery (If required)	:	To be intimated to the responsive bidders through their Registered E-Mail IDs.
13.	Bid Security	:	Rs.2,66,704.00
14.	Cost of Tender paper	:	Rs.10,000/-
15.	Procurement Officer	:	Additional Chief Engineer, Drainage Circle, Unit-8, Bhubaneswar- 751012.

Further details can be seen from the Govt. web site www.tenderorissa.gov.in. Addendum / Corrigendum / Cancellation if any required will be published only in Govt. web site. www.tenderorissa.gov.in.

OIPR-32375/11/0005/2324

Sd/-Additional Chief Engineer, Drainage Circle, Bhubaneswar

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केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Government Of India Undertaking)
Head Office: Bangalore

ARM-1 Branch
2nd Floor, C.O. Bldg, No.86, Spencer Tower, M.G. Road Bangalore-560001
PH: 080-25310066 Mob: 9883532366/9483858759
E-mail: cb2366@canarabank.com

SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged /charged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Avenue Road Branch (Presently the account is in **ARM-1 Branch , Bengaluru of the Canara Bank,** will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and " Whatever there is" on 12/01/2024 (11.30 am to 12.00 pm),** for recovery of **Rs.11,97,01,714.95/-** with further interest and cost thereon due to **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of Canara Bank** from **1. M/s Aristos EMS P Ltd.** No. 31, Semicom Park, Tower II, Electronic City Phase II, Bangalore – 560100. **2. Mr. Mahesh Draksharapu,** Villa No. 109, Akshaya Layout, Sy No. 24/10, Seegehalli, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore. **3. Mrs. Aparna Draksharapu,** Villa No. 109, Akshaya Layout, Sy No. 24/10, Seegehalli, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore. **4. Mr. Vivek Chandran** S/o Baby Mohanachandra Kaniyam Kandy Plot No. 103/A, Flat No. 303, Hamilton Surabhi, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk – 560034.

The reserve price and the earnest money deposit details are as under & the Earnest Money Deposit shall be deposited on or before will be **11/01/2024 at 5.00 pm to account number 209272434, Canara Bank ARM-I Bengaluru RTGS / NEFT (IFSC – CNRB0002366).**

(₹. in Lakhs)

Lot No	Description of the Property	Reserve Price	EMD Amount	Incremental value
1	The property consists of 64.52 cents of land in R.S No. 244/7 at Kalliasseri Village in Kannur Taluk in Kannur District. Kerala held in the name of Mr. Vivek Chandran S/o Baby Mohana Chandra.	₹. 113.30	₹. 11.33	₹. 1.00

Known Encumbrances, if any: Not to the Knowledge of the Bank.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website **(www.canarabank.com)** or may contact Chief manager, **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru, Canara Bank, Ph. No.7483935007/9483532366** during office hours on any working day.

Place: Bengaluru
Date : 08.12.2023

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Canara Bank

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Government Of India Undertaking)
Head Office: Bangalore

ARM-1 Branch
2nd Floor, No.86, Spencer Tower, M.G. Road Bangalore-560001
PH: 080-25310066 Mob: 9448507473 and 9627872626
E-mail: cb2366@canarabank.com

SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable/Movable Properties under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described Immovable/movable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of the Canara Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 12.01.2024 (11.00 AM to 11.30 AM), for recovery of Rs.7,48,44,812.47/-** with further interest and cost thereon due to the **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of Canara Bank** from **1. M/s M K V Engineering (Rep. by Proprietor Mr. K Venkatesh Chellam),** No. 2235, Block A, AECS Layout, 60 Feet Main road, Singasandra, Hosur Road, Bangalore – 560100. **2. Mr. K Venkatesh Chellam,** No. 1693, 18th Cross, A Block, AECS Layout, Singasandra, Hosur Road, Bangalore – 560100. **3. Mr. K Venkatesh Chellam**, No.21, 2nd Cross, Parappana Agrahara. Near Pepsi Godown, Hosur Road, Electronic City, Bangalore – 560100. **4. Mr. V C Krishnamurthy (Guarantor)** No.21, 2nd Cross, Parappana Agrahara. Near Pepsi Godown, Hosur Road, Electronic City, Bangalore 560100.

The Reserve Price and Earnest Money Deposits details are as under & the Earnest Money Deposit shall be deposited **on or before 11.01.2024 at 5.00 pm** by way of DD favouring **Authorized Officer, Canara Bank ARM-1 Branch** through online (RTGS/NEFT/Fund Transfer - **IFSC CODE CNRB0002366**) to the credit of the account number **209272434,** Canara Bank, ARM- I Branch, Bangalore

(₹. in lakhs)

Lot No	Description of the immovable/movable assets:	Reserve Price	EMD Amount	Incremental value at Bid
1	Residential property situated at site no. 21, 2nd Cross, Parappana Agrahara, Near Pepsi Godown, Hosur Road, Bengaluru – 560100(Old Sy. No 68/3, Khatha no. 617, Parappana Agrahara village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk)with extent of site measuring 1200 Sq.Ft. and building at Site no. 21 with BF, GF, FF, SF, & Terrace having plinth area 2700Sq. Ft. and entire south bounded on the: East by: Road, West by: Site no:22, North by: Site no: 20 & South by: Road	₹. 191.00	₹. 19.10	₹. 1.00
2	Vacant Residential site bearing no.2, Khatha no. 2, Devishetty Halli village, Nandi Hobli, Chikkaballapura Taluk, earlier Kolar Dist. Measuring 1500 Sq.Ft. and entire site bounded on the : East: by Road, West by: Site no. 11, North: by Site no. 2, & South by: Site no. 3	₹. 18.90	₹. 1.89	₹. 1.00
3	Vacant Residential site bearing no.3, Khatha no. 3, Devishetty Halli village, Nandi Hobli, Chikkaballapura Taluk, earlier Kolar Dist. Measuring 2000 Sq.Ft. and entire site bounded on the : East: by Road, West by: Site no. 10, North: by Site no. 2, & South: by Road	₹. 25.20	₹. 2.52	₹. 1.00

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website **(www.canarabank.com)** or may contact Chief Manager, **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru, Canara Bank, Ph. No.9448507473 and 9627872626** during office hours on any working day.

Place: Bengaluru
Date : 08.12.2023

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Canara Bank

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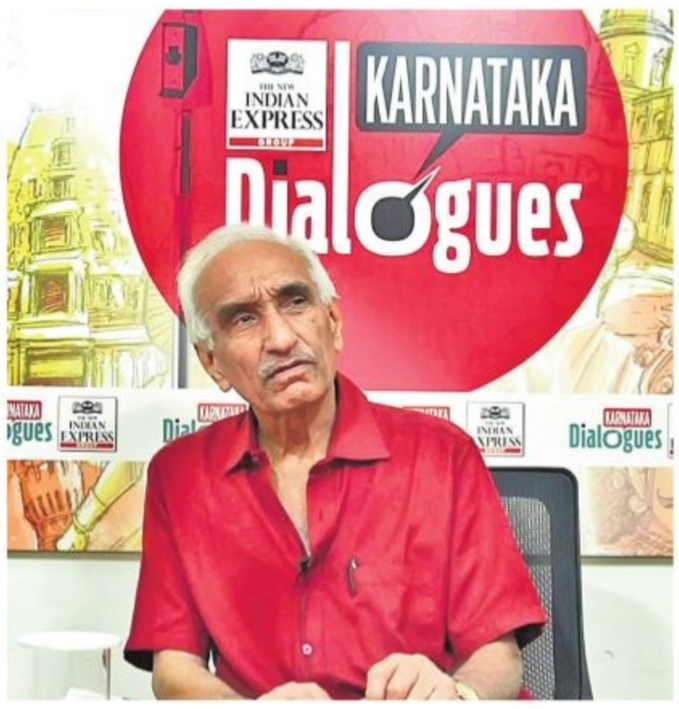
Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and Food Processing Industries Shobha Karandlaje said TMC's Mahua Moitra was expelled from Lok Sabha on Friday after she was proved to be corrupt. "She engaged in corruption even to ask questions in Parliament. Her act was a black mark to the democratic system. She misused and utilised her position for personal gains," Shobha claimed, while speaking to reporters in Udupi on Saturday

'GOVERNMENT, OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR FOREST FRAGMENTATION'



THE forest department failed to complete the elephant capture operation that led to the death of famed former Mysuru Dasara's howdah-carrying tusker Arjuna, said retired Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, **BK Singh**. In conversation with the editors and staff of The New Sunday Express, he pointed out that conflict is increasing as forests are shrinking. The administration as a whole, and the forest department in particular, are responsible for the forest encroachments, which are shrinking wildlife habitats. Excerpts from the interview ...

What went wrong in the Arjuna incident according to you? Everyone is talking about the operation...
Kumki elephants are trained to capture wild elephants. Usually, whenever an operation is held to capture a wild elephant, it is always conducted with the help of kumkis. Also infighting between wild and tamed elephants is quite common. But here, the question arises whether Arjuna should have been used as a kumki or not. Well, yes and no. As he was 60-years-plus, it should have been avoided. In such operations, such casualties do take place. So what I say is that they should not depend too much on Arjuna and others, even for Mysuru Dasara. It is not right.

Then what should be done?
The forest department should always have a second and third line of defence — other elephants should take their place now. The time has come for elephants like Arjuna not to be exposed like this, and we should be ready. Now, after Arjuna, we have to be ready with other elephants to be used as kumkis in important operations to capture wild elephants. Being a kumki is a tough job, otherwise they will face the same fate as Arjuna.

Can we call it a 'failed operation'? The wild elephant was also in 'masth' (in heat). So, wasn't the timing itself wrong?
If the elephant was in 'masth', then it is all the more aggressive. So probably they thought that Arjuna would have been able to deal with it. But they should have also kept a second line of defence ready. Here, the department failed to complete the operation and there is no denial. But there is always a margin of error. The department should have been more careful and should not have let this happen ... should not have let Arjuna go, and should not have conducted the operation when the wild tusker was in 'masth'. They should not have conducted the operation on that day. A delay of a day or two would not have made much difference.

What are the risks involved in elephant capture operations?
Capturing elephants is very tricky. Large crowds gather, and managing the crowd is also very difficult, so a small number of police personnel are also deployed, so that law and order is maintained and to ensure that nobody surrounds the elephant. But the forest department does not have the expertise to control the crowds, and as a result fatal incidents have been reported in the past. When you are starting such an important operation, you must examine the background and you must consider that all precautions are taken so that no casualties take place.

In the recent leopard case, the animal was shot down. What is your opinion? Shouldn't it have been captured alive?
I think it was the fourth or fifth day of the operation and the department got impatient. They were also under pressure from the public and public representatives. There have been instances in the past when enough pressure is put on forest officials to deliver quick results. Under such a pressure, they lose their cool and they shoot the animal and kill it.

Should only darting be done, and not shooting?
In cities, darting has to be done. But if you use the bullet, it's not good. And in the recent leopard incident, I thought they got impatient and had to deliver results, and they were not prepared to handle any more situations. They were also concerned about the leopard getting into densely populated areas and creating more problems.

Isn't it a worry that leopards are around us (near human habitations)?
Studies have proved that during the day if the area (mainly on the fringes of forests) is occupied by humans, at night it is occupied by leopards. This is because they have food — stray dogs and pigs, and other domesticated animals. The municipality is responsible to keep the areas clean. Keeping the leopard prey at the minimum is the only way out not to have leopards in the area.

In human-animal conflict, does forest encroachment play a major role? You also recently wrote to the Prime Minister on this...
You are perfectly right. If we go and encroach forests, then where should wild animals go? I completely agree and concede that it is the failure of the administration in general, and the forest department in particular, to have let encroachments take place. I am talking at the country level. And forest rights act. I call it a land-grabbing act. For the sake of elections and votes, the political masters encourage it. People go and occupy and they regularise it.

What about deemed forests? The Karnataka government is working on it...
In 2002, the deemed forest was around 10 lakh hectare. Its definition was one with 50 trees and above per hectare. Now if you go on chopping all the trees, it has become five trees per hectare. Then they say 'where are the trees?,' and approach the Supreme Court and say that 3 lakh hectares should be deemed forest and want to revive it. It will further become zero.

Are you saying the government and officials are responsible for forest fragmentation?
Yes. If you do not keep your eyes and ears open, if all the senior officers are in the central headquarters, then this is bound to happen. In our time, a lot of officers were on the field and were very sensitive. They used to fight encroachments. But now, they say they are evicting encroachments. As a former forest officer, I will not support evicting encroachments. They are responsible for it. Forest department has not taken sufficient interest to ensure that the deemed forest is kept intact. Who is to be blamed for the loss of 95 trees per hectare in deemed forests? Somebody has to be held responsible for it...

Sand mining is another matter of concern. Has the situation changed between then and now?
Sand mining is a matter of concern as it changes the course of the river. It is also a concern in forest areas. Human habitations will get impacted when there is a flash flood or cloudburst and water will rush into people's houses. Natural drainage should be maintained. When they do sand mining, sand is haphazardly removed. Most sand mining is illegal. Some are in connivance with forest department officials and some are negligent as nobody likes to battle it out. Officials will sit at home thinking that everything is okay. They will give a report and make presentations from their computers/laptops that everything is okay.

What should be done?
Forest department work ideally is very difficult. You have to have faith on your legs. Unless you walk and see it, you can't do justice. It is the case with deemed forests and sand mining.

What is the conviction rate for cases registered under Karnataka Forest Act?
The conviction rate is very low. Even as FIRs are issued in 50% cases, no chargesheets are filed. Factors like officers getting transferred, witnesses turning hostile or absconding are few of the reasons due to which investigations are not completed. Not just in Karnataka, this situation is the same at the national level too. It is crucial to punish the culprit, otherwise all others are emboldened to further commit such crimes. Of all the cases, only 10% of people are convicted by the courts.

Can you recollect any incident?
In one such incident, a man from Mysuru killed a deer and later escaped to Saudi Arabia. Though I took the matter seriously, and he was caught six months later at the Mumbai airport with the help of the customs department, all protocols were followed ensuring his conviction. But with time, the court itself soft-peddled the matter and he was granted bail after being in jail for 3-4 months.

Can you share some insights on the Ballari mining issue, especially after some areas have been opened for mining?
It was complete devastation. When I was heading the forest department, the CBI (Central Bureau of Investigation) was very active. They raided homes of retired officers involved in taking bribes from those owning Ballari mines. A proposal was also sent for removing a forest check-post. It was also done without any approval. Karnataka's mineral wealth was transported out of the state through Karwar port....

Have things changed now?
Yes. Committees have been formed, mines have been classified into classes and those found violating are punished. However, it still has not created a significant impact. It is to be noted that all areas with good iron ore deposits have beautiful forests, which are compromised.

What about compensatory afforestation?
Though there is a compensatory afforestation act, it's only on paper. The rehabilitation work is not up to the mark and it will never be at par with the natural native species, which are permanently lost. Forests are destroyed through mining and despite rehabilitation, natural vegetation or good quality soil is not recovered.

What action do you suggest that the government takes on climate change at the COP28 summit?
Everyone must prevail that China should stop burning coal as they are the highest carbon emitters in the world followed by the US. India is a distant third. With an exponential surge in power being seen, there is a dire need for a shift to renewable energy. This year has also been projected as the warmest year, despite India extending their targets of reducing carbon emissions, China is not likely to stop. We are not seeing sincere efforts being made to reduce carbon emissions as new coal plants are being set up even now, and though few countries are at a higher fault, the repercussions will be faced by everyone.

What is your advice to youngsters to join the forest service?
Youngsters must join the forest service, but do note that it requires a lot of hard work. Today, the degeneration in society has changed people's priorities wherein they get swayed by higher salaries and families. Corruption is rampant here too. Earlier, officers used to go for a recce on foot and only return late afternoon, but now that is not followed often. It is also a challenging role. It also involves convincing people, including tribals, to accept the relocation programme. They cannot be forced as it is voluntary.

What is your advice to citizens and the forest department for forest conservation?
Nature must be respected and we must grow more trees, it is the cheapest method of reducing carbon dioxide (CO_2) levels. Wild animals and trees also have a symbiotic relationship and they need to be conserved. Further, the target of restoring 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030 seems a farsighted goal as of now, but it is crucial to achieve it.

EXPRESS Dialogues

Internal differences haunt BJP, Congress

IN Karnataka, the ruling Congress and the BJP may recalibrate their Lok Sabha poll strategy after the assembly poll result in the four states. The BJP, which has an onerous task of retaining 25 seats, has to redouble its efforts to build unity among its state leaders, while the Congress needs to look beyond guarantees to keep up the momentum in its favour.

The lack of proper coordination among BJP leaders surfaced during the ongoing winter session of the State Legislature in Belagavi. The party legislators were not on the same page while taking on the Siddaramaiah government over the assault on a BJP leader allegedly by a Congress legislator and his associates. It did not bode well for the party that was looking to put the government on the mat during the session. It is yet to be seen how Opposition Leader R Ashoka, state party president BY Vijayendra and senior legislators ensure better coordination in the assembly in the remaining five days of the session.

The party cadres seem to be regaining confidence after Vijayendra's appointment as the party's state president and the 3:1 results in the recent assembly polls that boosted its morale. But discordant notes coming from senior leaders continue to be an impediment. Failure to address it quickly could impact the party's preparation for the Lok Sabha polls.

Going by the recent developments, taking disgruntled leaders into confidence is not an easy task, but the Central leadership is expected to fully back the new state president and make everyone fall in line. For the BJP, Karnataka is the only state in South India where it can hope to win a good number of seats.

A new team of office-bearers that will be constituted in Karnataka after Vijayendra's appointment will also play an important role in strengthening the organisation at the grassroots level. The party will be banking on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's image and former chief minister BS Yediyurappa's experience. The 80-year-old Lingayat strongman is an indefatigable campaigner with an appeal that could help the party retain its traditional Lingayat support base, which will be crucial to retaining its Lok Sabha seats. Also, Yediyurappa's politics mainly revolves around agrarian issues, unlike hardline voices in his party.

His political acumen will also come in handy for the new team that has the difficult task of ensuring coordination with its new ally Janata Dal (Secular). The 2024 Lok Sabha polls will be the first big test for his son and party president Vijayendra's leadership.

On its part, the Congress is likely to look beyond the guarantees to improve its tally in the Lok Sabha polls, though effective implementation of the schemes will be crucial for its performance. Although the Congress had announced guarantee schemes in neighbouring Telangana, its victory was mostly attributed to the anti-incumbency factor working against the 10-year rule of KC Chandrashekar Rao government and an aggressive campaign spearheaded by its local leaders, including A Revanth Reddy, who is now rewarded with the chief minister's post. Congress leaders from Karnataka, including Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, played a key role in bringing the party to power in the state for the first time by dethroning KCR, who was in power since the formation of the state in 2014.

Unlike assembly polls, issues in the Lok Sabha polls will be different and it will be centred around national issues, and Modi government's performance and the opposition's ability to project a strong alternative.

However, like the BJP, Congress has its share of internal issues as the government seems to be struggling to strike a balance between the implementation of guarantee schemes and maintaining the pace of development. The appointment of heads of boards and corporations may help take some disgruntled leaders into confidence, but showing progress in long-pending projects like Mekedatu Balancing Reservoir remains a challenge.

Many in the Congress will also be concerned over charges of minority appeasement against Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. The intensity with which the BJP attacked the CM over his recent remarks on increasing funds for the minorities' development indicated that the party will not let go of any opportunity to brand the CM as it aligns with its larger strategy of consolidation of majority community votes.

For now, both parties will be looking to resolve their internal issues as they jump into Lok Sabha poll preparations soon after the assembly session ends on December 15.

Ahead of Ibrahim's parallel JDS meet, Gowda expels Kerala ex-MLA

ENS @ Bengaluru

IN a strategic move, former prime minister and JDS supremo HD Deve Gowda here on Saturday held the party's National Executive Committee meeting and expelled party's national vice-president and former Kerala MLA CK Nanu. It was a swift move by Gowda, ahead of a parallel National EC meeting planned by Nanu and former Karnataka JDS president **CM Ibrahim** here on December 11.

Recently, Nanu held an alternative National EC meeting in Kerala, and set December 9 as a deadline for Gowda to exit the party's alliance with NDA, formed to fight the 2024 Lok Sabha polls together in Karnataka.

"When the national president is alive, Nanu attempted the misadventure of holding a parallel meeting under his presidentship. Despite a decision taken in Ibrahim's presence to go into an alliance with BJP for the Parliamentary polls in the interest of JDS, he went against it, damaging the party's image by issuing statements in the media," Gowda told reporters. The executive committee passed two resolutions, to expel Nanu and to ratify the expulsion of former state president Ibrahim. Gowda clarified that JDS will continue to be with the ruling LDF in Kerala, as he has given his letter of consent to the JDS state unit president. "When the I.N.D.I.A bloc meeting was held, Bihar CM Nitish Kumar had called me up. But they (I.N.D.I.A) had put forth certain conditions and kept JDS away. After that, we allied with BJP in the interest of our party," he said.

He said the party organisational election will be held next year following an Election Commission's order. He said delegates from most of the state JDS units, including West Bengal, Haryana, Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, and Maharashtra, took part in the EC meeting.

Applicants must be K'taka residents

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

THE government will give the financial assistance to the beneficiaries after six months of their graduation and remain unemployed. However, the assistance will be given for two years only or till the graduates get jobs within this period, the minister said. The applicants must be residents of Karnataka and graduated in the 2022-23 academic year. The assistance will be transferred to the beneficiaries' bank accounts directly, he said.

Rahul must quit, will protest: BJP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

OPPOSITION BJP members will stage a statewide protest on Sunday, demanding Congress MP Rahul Gandhi's resignation from Lok Sabha after a huge amount of cash was recovered in a Congress leader's house during I-T raids in Jharkhand.

BJP MLC N Ravi Kumar said that over Rs 300 crore was recovered during I-T raids on Congress Rajya Sabha member Dheeraj Sahu, a close associate of Rahul. "This is the single biggest cash recovery in I-T or ED raids. He (Sahu) is very close to Rahul and Sonia Gandhi. They must make their stand clear," he said, while urging AICC chieh Mallikarjun Kharge to talk about it.

"The Congress leaders were making allegations against the BJP government in the state and were demanding resignation. Now, let them resign. The Congress government in Karnataka is an ATM government," Kumar alleged.

We shall not rest till India becomes Vishwaguru: Scindia

ENS @ Bengaluru

UNION Minister for Civil Aviation and Steel Jyotiraditya M Scindia here on Saturday exhorted the people of the country to be part of PM Narendra Modi's resolve to transform the country into 'Vishwaguru' by making it the third-largest economy in the world.

In a spirited speech at the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra at Avati village near Devanahalli, he said the country, which was among the ten largest economies in 2014, has become the fifth largest in the last nine-and-a-half years of Modi government. "India is poised to become the third-largest economy in the world, leaving behind Germany and Japan by 2027," he said.

"Today, we take the resolve that we shall not rest till we see India

shine in the league of the developed countries of the world. While this #ViksitBharatSankalpYatra will always remind us of the progress we've made through our continued 100% saturation of schemes, it will also ignite the spirit of people's participation for progress of all (jan bhagidari for sabka vikas)," he posted on 'X'.

He attacked Congress for not taking the country on the path of progress, except for indulging in corruption and appeasement (of minorities) politics for over six decades.

A man was killed in a tiger attack and his body was found half-eaten in a forest at Vakeri in Wayanad district on Saturday. Prajeesh Kuttappan Marottiparambil, 36, had gone to the forest to collect grass for his goats and cows when the tiger attacked him

(From left) Lipika Singh Darai, Pankaja Sethi, TNIE-Odisha resident editor Siba Mohanty, TNIE CEO Lakshmi Menon, Aboli Sunil Naravane, Sukanti Meher, Akshita Bhanja Deo, TNIE editorial director Prabhu Chawla, former Lt Governor of Puducherry Kiran Bedi, Mrinalika Bhanja Deo, Rosalin Patsani Mishra, Dr Swati Nayak, Ramita Singh, Monalisa Bal and Minati Panda (who received the award on behalf of Susmita Bagchi) | SHAMIM QURESHY

MAHUA COMPROMISED SECURITY OF AN IMPORTANT INSTITUTION: KIRAN BEDI

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bhubaneswar

FORMER Lt Governor of Puducherry Kiran Bedi on Saturday said Lok Sabha member Mahua Moitra had compromised the security of an important institution by sharing the login credentials of Parliament website.

Speaking to mediapersons on the sidelines of Devi Awards instituted by The New Indian Express here on Saturday, she said, "As an MP, only she has the right to use it, nobody else. This stood compromised and she has admitted it. You and I cannot decide whether the ethics committee of the Parliament has power or not to expel her. Let's leave it to legal experts."

When asked about allegations that Moitra was not given a fair hearing, she said it was one side of the story and there was another side too. "Let both sides of the story be examined by the legal pundits. Whether she could be forgiven or it leads to an expulsion is for the legal pundits to decide," she said.

Presenting the Devi Awards to 12 women achievers of Odisha, Bedi said the biggest quality of women is empathy and their strength is emotional intelligence. Both combined, they can achieve the greatest of feats and overcome all challenges in life.

In an interaction with senior journalist Kaveree Bamzai during the presentation ceremony of the 25th edition of Devi Awards, the former Lt Governor of Puducherry said she would not have become what she is without the challenges she faced in her life. "I am glad that I was challenged so many times in my career. These things helped me become what I am in life today," Bedi said. Bedi, the first woman IPS officer of India, said her sports background also immensely helped her overcome the challenges faced by her in life. A champion of women's education, Bedi said learning is never complete without sports.

"Even if we do not have a playground, we should take them out for cycling, trekking and other outdoor activities," she said and added that only books will not educate a person.

The former IPS officer also said, "Every person should develop a spiritual quotient to lead a meaningful life. If you remain human inside and listen to your inner voice, conscience and when you are not living at the cost of others, that is spiritual quotient."

The Devi awards were given to agriculture scientist Swati Nayak, weaver and entrepreneur Sukanti Meher, textile researcher Pankaja Sethi, social entrepreneur Rosalin Patasani Mishra, tribal artisan Ramita Singh, eminent educationist Susmita Bagchi, filmmaker Lipika Singh Darai, writer Gayatribala Panda, educationist Mona Lisa Bal, Jharsuguda collector Aboli Sunil Naravane, heritage conservationists and entrepreneurs Mrinalika Bhanj Deo and Akshita Bhanj Deo.

Bedi, editorial director of the New Indian Express Prabhu Chawla and resident editor of TNIE Bhubaneswar Siba Mohanty gave away the awards. Chief executive officer of TNIE Lakshmi Menon was present.

Sabarimala temple can't be open for 17 hrs: Board

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kochi

THE Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) on Saturday informed the Kerala High Court that the Sabarimala thantri has expressed his opinion that extending the temple timings beyond 17 hours daily would be difficult. This is because both thantri and melsanthi have to remain at Sannidhanam during the entire season. The TDB president had discussed the matter with the thantri, said TDB's counsel.

The TDB also informed the court that considering the total footfall at Sannidhanam, the board limited the number of 'ashtabhishekam' and 'pushpabhishekam' to 15 per day.

The devaswom bench comprising Justice Anil K Narendran and Justice P G Ajithkumar held a special sitting in the wake of the heavy flow of devotees to Sannidhanam. The bench pointed out that when the average footfall at Sabarimala reaches 80,000-90,000 pilgrims per day, 70-80 pilgrims will have to move through the holy steps in a minute. During the current Mandala-Makaravilakku festival season, nearly 20 percent of the total pilgrims are women and children. Besides, there are senior citizens and persons with disability, who require more attention while climbing the holy steps, the bench observed.

The court directed the Special Commissioner, Sabarimala, to take necessary steps to ensure the devotees are provided with 'chukku vellam' and biscuits and that there is no overcrowding.

EXPRESS READ

Tourist couple commit suicide in Madikeri

Madikeri: A couple from Kerala committed suicide after allegedly suffocating their child to death. The incident was reported at a homestay in Kadagadalu of Madikeri taluk on Saturday. The reason for suicide is yet to be ascertained. Vinod Babusenan, a resident of Kollam in Kerala, GB Abraham, his wife, and the couple's 10-year-old daughter checked into the homestay at 6 pm on Friday. The management confirmed that the family spent the night cheerfully and would check out at 10 am on Saturday. However, when they did not respond in the morning, the staff peeped into the room through the window only to find the couple hanged to the ceiling. The Madikeri rural police visited the spot and the relatives were alerted. The bodies have been sent for postmortem.

Moneyball: Life-altering payday for cricketers

GOMESH S @ Chennai

THE Manathavady Municipality of Wayanad district in Kerala has made the news multiple times in the past year, especially after the rise of Minnu Mani, who became the first woman cricketer from the state to play for India. On Saturday, the streets of Manathavady was buzzing once again as one of their own was in the limelight. This time, it is Sajana S, the Kerala all-rounder, who has been signed by Mumbai Indian for ₹15 lakh in the mini auction.

For the 28-year-old, who made her senior debut for Kerala in 2011-12 at the age of 16, representing the country in the sport she loved has been the only dream. And in pursuing that, she had to sacrifice a lot over the years — being the only girl child in her village to take up the sport when she did, to managing the expenses despite the financial struggles of the family, to staying in government school hostel that changed her life and made her independent.

Sajana had to search for words trying while to explain what this opportunity means. "There is a lot of sacrifice. My parents gave me all the freedom, but they do not know much about the sport. They just encourage me to do well and are happy for me," she says, adding that she probably hadn't earned as much money in her cricket so far.

"Yes, definitely it is going to be of great help. I have been paying housing loan for years, I can close it and then I don't have to get worked up about it. That is something I have to do for my family." It is not just Sajana. Among uncapped India players, Kashvee Gautam was signed for ₹2 crore by Gujarat Giants (joint-highest along with Annabel Sutherland for DC) and Vrinda Dinesh was picked by UP Warriorz for ₹1.3 crore.

"The amount she received is life-changing for Kashvee," said Kashvee's coach Nagesh Gupta, describing the feeling as "surreal".

Sajana S was signed by MI for ₹15 lakh

STATE BANK OF INDIA
BANGALORE CITY BRANCH (00814)
22, J C Road, Bangalore - 560 002

LOCKER BREAK OPEN

This is the information of our valued patrons who have taken lockers on rent at State Bank of India , Bangalore city Branch ,J C Road and have committed breach of the agreement .The notices sent as per RBI Bank guidelines to the renters at their recorded address have been returned undelivered stating either persons /addresses not found or left .Efforts to contact the locker holders in person at their present at their recorded addresses was in vain and their present whereabouts could not be ascertained. Thus having no alternative, the notice is given to all the persons named below for contacting branch and to clear the dues of the Bank within a period of 3 months, failing which the bank will precede
To Break open the locker at their cost, risk and responsibility and the bank will exercise

No	SDV No	Name	Due for years	Amount Due (Rs)	Address
1	49503698839	JANARDHANA RAJU	5	27376	Medical Practitioner, No. 55/24, 3rd Cross, Bangalore 560002
2	49503724600	GOPAL SHANKERLAL	4	13688	Business,no.77, Guru Nanak Nivas, Ast. Michel Church Extension, Shanthinagar,Bangalore
3	49503741717	ADAMKHAN FAIZ	5	23836	Alufco, PB No 208, Damman, S A Karnat, Karnataka India
4	49504049021	D ACHAIAH CHETTY	5	54752	Locker Customer, Locker No L 24, Bangalore
5	49517940092	NUZHATH BEGUM	5	27376	14-A, Cr Road, Austin Town, Bangalore
6	49527136258	VARADARAJA D P	5	27376	KIOCL, Koramangala, Bangalore
7	49539714759	DAYANAND HIREMATH	5	27376	#640, 1st Main, 3rd Block, 3rd Cross BSK 3rd Stage, Bangalore

Date:
Place:
Sd/-
BRANCH MANAGER

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ-562123
ದೂರವಾಣಿ : 080-27722735, ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ : 08027723627
Web : www.nelamangalacity.mrc.gov.in, Email : itstaffnelamangala@gmail.com
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ನಸನೆ/ತಾಂಶಾ(ನಿ)/ಟೆಂಡರ್/161/2023-24 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07.12.2023
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಹೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)
(ಸ್ಟಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ KW 1&2ರ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳಂತೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ)

ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ವಿಷಯ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ 15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ 05 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಆಟೋ ಟಿಪ್ಪರ್ ಪಡೆಯುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ 14ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ 01 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಆಟೋ ಟಿಪ್ಪರ್ ಪಡೆಯುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ನಗರಸಭಾ ನಿಧಿಯಡಿ ಮಿನಿ ಎಕ್ಸಾಕೇವೇಟರ್ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಹಾಗೂ 03 ಚಕ್ರದ ಎಲೆಕ್ಟ್ರಿಕ್ ಬೈಕ್ ಖರೀದಿಸಲು ಹಾಗೂ ಸ್ವಚ್ಛ ಭಾರತ್ ಮಿಷನ್ (ನಗರ) 2.0 ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ ನಗರಸಭೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 8 ಆಸನಗಳ ಮಹಾತ್ವಾಕಾಂಕ್ಷೆಯ ಶೌಚಾಲಯ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಹಾಗೂ 6000 ಲೀ ಟ್ಯಾಂಕರ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಪೂರೈಸಲು ಹಾಗೂ ಶುದ್ಧಿ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಘಟಕಗಳ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಗೆ (2 ಪ್ಯಾಕೇಜ್) ಹಾಗೂ ಕೊಳವೆ ಬಾವಿಕೊರೆಯುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು (04 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್) (ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್) ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಒಟ್ಟು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 357.48 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಐಟಾಂವಾರು ಮತ್ತು ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಹೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನ ಏಕ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು.
ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: (As per KPPP Portal ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: (As per KPPP Portal) ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ನಗರಸಭೆಯ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಶಾಖೆಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/- ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಲಕ್ಷ್ಮಿ ಹೇಮಂತ್‌ಕುಮಾರ್ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು ನಗರಸಭೆ, ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ
ಸಹಿ/- ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಸುಜಾತ ಮುನಿಯಪ್ಪ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಉಪಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ನಗರಸಭೆ, ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ
ಸಹಿ/- ಶ್ರೀ ಪ್ರದೀಪ್ ಸಿ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸ್ಥಾಯಿ ಸಮಿತಿ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ನಗರಸಭೆ, ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ
ಸಹಿ/- ಶ್ರೀ ಹೆಚ್.ಸಿ. ಕೃಷ್ಣಮೂರ್ತಿ (ಕೆಂಎಎಸ್) ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು, ನಗರಸಭೆ, ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ

ವಾಸಾಸಂಂ/ವಾ.ಪ್ರ/2478/ಬಿರಡಿ ಸಾಯ/2023-24

SHIVAMOGGA SMART CITY LIMITED
Regd Office: 1st Floor, Corporation Building block SN Market, Nehru Road, Shivamogga - 577-201
Email : shimogasmartcity@gmail.com P.No: 08182-279951

RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION

No:SSCL/Adm/415/RN/2023 Date : 07.12.2023

The Company intends to recruit ONE POST OF ASSISTANT ENGINEER (E&C) on Contract Basis temporarily for a period of one year from the date of recruitment. The candidate should possess Degree in Engineering (Electronics & Communication) or equivalent. Preference will be given to those who have minimum 2 years work experience in Smart City ICCC Project. Monthly remuneration will be Rs 43100/-& other allowances as per Smart City Company norms. Interested are to refer to **website:www.shimogacity.mrc.gov.in** and also in shivamogga smart city notice board for application form and other details. Interested person may apply through email only to **sscl.recruitmentnotification@gmail.com** The last date for submitting application is **22nd of December 2023**

DIPR/SMG/No.37-12 zenkar/2023-24

Sd/- **Managing Director**
Shivamogga Smart City Limited
Shivamogga

RAIL COACH FACTORY, KAPURTHALA

On-line Tenders are invited by PCMM/RCF on behalf of President of India for the following items:-

Sr. No.	Tender No. & Due Date	Description	Qty. (Nos./Sets)	EMD (₹)
1.	13235151A 05/01/2024 and Oracle	Supply, installation, commissioning of Servers (Database and application) Software as per spec No. RCF-AEDPM/S-23-00002 Version: 2.1	01 Set	12,95,550/-
2.	14231187A 03/01/2024	Extra High Purity Nitrogen Gas (02 Types)	19152 Cum 32256 Cum	81,690/-
3.	14231198 28/12/2023	Liquid Argon Gas	238080 Cum	7,78,520/-
4.	14231261 27/12/2023	PU Paints for LHB Coaches	358 Set	3,67,490/-
5.	01231232 29/12/2023	Set of Axle END Cover for LHB Bogies	1627 Set	1,84,310/-
6.	01231328A 04/01/2024	Axle Box Housing for MEMU/ DMC	500 Nos.	1,76,680/-
7.	05231672 04/01/2024	Front Part	90 Nos.	3,35,120/-
8.	05231626 05/01/2024	Pillar	17978 Nos.	3,34,730/-

1. For details and making On-line tenders, visit Website **http://ireps.gov.in.** Drawings/ specifications, wherever required can be downloaded from RCF Website **http://www.rcf.indianrailways.gov.in.** Class IIIb digital signature certificate required for on-line bidding, can be obtained from licensed certifying agencies listed at **http://www.cce.gov.in.** 2. Tenders will close at 14.25 Hrs. on due date and will be opened at 14.30 Hrs. Tenders Sr. No. 1 to 4 will be opened at RCF Kapurthala and Sr. No. 5 to 8 will be opened at Tilak Bridge, New Delhi. 3. For queries, contact IREPS Helpdesk at 011-24102855, 011-24105180 or RCF helpdesk at 011-23378658.

Note: GST Number of RCF is 03AAAGM0289C1ZT. All the suppliers are advised to quote this in dispatch documents for the supplies made by them.

PCMM

Corrigendum

The following amendment is authorized against **(1)** Tender No. **14231144** due on 06.12.2023 due date to be read as 22.12.2023 instead of 06.12.2023 **(2)** Tender No.**14231255** due on 06.12.2023 due date to be read as 22.12.2023 instead of 06.12.2023 (3) Tender No. **17231465** due on 05.12.2023 for procurement of Supply and Fitment of complete Furnishing of LHB AC-3 TIER Coaches on Turnkey basis, due date to be read as 15.12.2023 instead of 05.12.2023
All other terms and conditions will remain the same.

PCMM

R.O. No.: 131-S/2023-24 **Dated: 09.12.2023**

SAINIK SCHOOL KALIKIRI, ANNAMAYYA DIST(AP)
(Under the aegis of Sainik Schools Society, MoD, Govt of India)

ADMISSIONS OPEN AISSEE 2024-25

Admissions for Class VI (Girls and Boys) and Class IX (Boys only) at Sainik School Kalikiri for the Academic Year 2024-25 will be through AISSEE entrance exam. Please visit https://sskal.ac.in and https://exams.nta.ac.in/AISSEE/. For further details. Last date for online registration is **16 Dec 2023.**

Sd/- Principal

Bank of Baroda
CHITTOOR BRANCH
#3-32/4, Opp.Little Flower E.M.School, Chittoor-517002, AP. Ph : 91542 85298

DEMAND NOTICE TO BORROWER & GUARANTOR

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF CHAPTER III OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002

Borrower : **Mr. P. Narasimhulu, Proprietor of M/s. Sri Vinayaka Enterprises,** Flat No.301, R.R. Life Style Apartment, D.No.2-742/5A, Sowkar Suleman Colony, Kongareddypalli, Chittoor-517001.
Guarantor/ Mortgagor : **Mr. D. Damodara Chetty,** S-3, Balaji Residency, Sarvabouma nagar, B.G.Road, Bangalore-560076

Re : Credit facilities with our Bank of Baroda, Chittoor Branch

The undersigned has issued Demand Notice U/s 13(2) of Chapter-III of the Securitisation and Recostruction of FInancial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 to you on **24-11-2023** through registered post with acknowledgement. Since you were not found in the said address furnished by you, the notice has been returned by the Postal Department. Hence this paper publication. The content of the said notice as follows. The operation and conduct of your loan have become irregular and improper repayment and your debt has since been classified as a Non Performing Asset on **18-04-2023.** You hereby call upon to pay the aggregate amount of **Rs.73,51,375.17 Ps (Rupees Seventy Three Lakhs Fifty One Thousand Three Hundred Sevety Five and Seventeen Paise Only) as on 20-11-2023** with inclusive of installments/interest thereon, plus unapplied interest and other charges at the contractual rates with costs, charges, other monies until payment or realisation to **Bank of Baroda** within a period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice. In terms of the provisions section 13(13) of the said Act, you are hereby prohibited from transferring, either by way of sale, lease or otherwise (other than in the ordinary course of your business) any of the secured assets as referred to in this notice without prior consent of **Bank of Baroda.** This notice is issued in terms of Section 13(2) of the said Act.

SECURITY AGREEMENT WITH BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES

Item No:1 : All that piece and parcel of the property in the name of Mr.Damodara Chetty bearing Residential Flat no.002 Ground Floor with super built up area of 1220 s.f consisting of Three Bedroom along with common area in the building known as "S.V.ARALIA" AND 475 sf of undivided share in the converted land bearing Survey No.68/4, Present BBMP Khata No.1072, situated at Belathur Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, now comes under BBMP Limits Ward No.54, Hoodi Sub-Range Bangalore, measuring in all 19 guntas. **Boundaries : East by :-** Road (earlier JANGA Reddy's property), **West by:-** Anniyappa Property, **North by:** Road formed in Survey No: 68/4 and thereafter remaining portion of the same Survey No.68/4, **South by :** 80 Feet Road.

Item No:2 : All that piece and parcel of the property in the name of Mr.Damodara Chetty bearing Residential Flat no.206, 2nd Floor with super built up area of 900 s.f consisting of Two Bedroom along with common area in the building known as "S.V.ARALIA" AND 350 sf of undivided share in the converted land bearing Survey No.68/4 , Present BBMP Khata No.1072, situated at Belathur Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, now comes under BBMP Limits Ward No.54, Hoodi Sub-Range, Bangalore, measuring in all 19 guntas. **Boundaries : East by:-** Road (earlier JANGA Reddy's property), **West by:-** Anniyappa Property, **North by:** Road formed in Survey No:68/4 and thereafter remaining portion, of the same Survey No.68/4, **South by:** 80 Feet Road.

Item No:3 : All that piece and parcel of the property in the name of Mr.Damodara Chetty bearing Residential Flat no.305 ,3rd Floor with super built up area of 1105 s.f consisting of Two Bedroom along with common area in the building known as "S.V.ARALIA" AND 430 sf of undivided share in the converted land bearing Survey No.68/4 , Present BBMP Khata No.1072, situated at Belathur Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, now comes under BBMP Limits Ward No.54, Hoodi Sub-Range, Bangalore, measuring in all 19 guntas. **Boundaries : East by:-** Road (earlier JANGA Reddy's property), **West by:-** Anniyappa Property, **North by:** Road formed in Survey No:68/4 and thereafter remaining portion of the same Survey No.68/4, **South by:** 80 Feet Road.

Item No:4 : All that piece and parcel of the property in the name of Mr.Damodara Chetty bearing Residential Flat no.406 ,4th Floor with super built up area of 1075 s.f consisting of Two Bedroom along with common area in the building known as "S.V.ARALIA" AND 418 sf of undivided share in the converted land bearing Survey No.68/4 , Present BBMP Khata No.1072, situated at Belathur Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, now comes under BBMP Limits Ward No.54, Hoodi Sub-Range, Bangalore, measuring in all 19 guntas. **Boundaries : East by:-** Road (earlier JANGA Reddy's property), **West by** Anniyappa Property, **North by :** Road formed in Survey No:68/4 and thereafter remaining portion of the same Survey No.68/4, **South by:** 80 Feet Road.

Place : Chittoor **Sd/- Chief Manager & Authorised Officer**
Date : 24.11.2023 **Bank of Baroda, Chittoor Branch**

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Corrigendum-6 to Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/EPC/54/2023 Dated : 03-08-2023

Name of the Work : Construction of New Broad Gauge Line Track Between Shorapur (Incl.) (187100) and Shahpur (excl.) (210500) (23.400 Km) under Gadag - Wadi New Line Project (257 Km) Including Signalling, Telecommunication & Electrical Works. **(Tender Ref. No. SHORAPUR-SHAHPUR-EPC)**

Advertised Value	
Existing	Revised
Rs. 551,54,47,224.20	**Rs. 425,49,82,027/-**
Tender Closing Date Time	
19-12-2023 (15:00 Hrs.)	**30-12-2023 (11:00 Hrs.)**
Bidding Start Date	
05-12-2023	**16-12-2023**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Deputy Chief Engineer / Construction / Works
Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/552/AAS/PRB/SWR/2023-24
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

QuoteExpress **IF YOU'RE GOING THROUGH HELL, KEEP GOING** WINSTON CHURCHILL

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client intend to purchase the residential property bearing New No.8, (Old No.192) BBMP PID No.98-63-8, Ward No.98 Ganganagar, situated at 9th Cross, Hebbal, Ganganagar Layout, Ganganagar, Bangalore-32, measuring East to West 40, and North to South 62 + 62f6"/2, totally measuring 2490Sft, together With the Ground & First building and the property is bounded by : On the East: Private Property No.193, On the West: Private Property No.191, On the North: Private Property No.199, On the South: Road. From the owner Mr.Sree Kailash, Any person having any objection or claiming any right, title or interest in the said property is required to lodge the same with the undersigned along with documentary evidences within 10 days from this date, failing which our client shall proceed and purchase the said property free from all encumbrances.

Place : Bangalore
Date : 09.12.2023

Mrs. Nirmala Vivekananda. B.A, L, LLB.,
Enroll No.KAR/165/94, Multi Consultants, Advocates, No.44/3,2nd Cross, Miller's Road, Benson Town, Bangalore-560046.
Phone : 080 23537154, Mobile : 9901989779

Union Bank of India
Asset Recovery Branch, Bengaluru North
1/1, First Floor, "Jeevan Sampige ",
2nd Main, Sampige Road, Malleshwaram,
Bengaluru - 560 003
E -mail: arb.bengalurunorth@unionbankofindia.bank

DEMAND NOTICE

We have to inform you that your loan accounts with our below mentioned branch has been classified as NPA account, pursuant to your default in making repayment of dues /interest. Notice dated below has been issued to you u/s 13(2) of The Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 by Asset Recovery Branch/me, the Authorised Officer, were sent to you calling upon to repay the dues in your loan account/s with us at your last known address could not be served. Therefore, the contents of the said demand notice is being published in this newspaper.
You have executed loan documents while availing the facilities and created security interest in favour of the Bank. The details are as under.

1. Name and Address of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Gurantor : (1) M/s.TITAN ENGINEERS, #201, Bommasandra Industrial Area, Jigani Link Road, Bangalore – 560 105. **(2) Mr.D.L.Prasad** S/o Late M.B.Dharanendraiah, Flat no C-1923, Second Floor, Brigade Meadows, Sector 5, Kaggalipura, Bangalore – 560 062.

Nature of Facility and Account No: (1) 560101000091451 (2) 560686000003791.
Demand Notice date : 06.11.2023. **NPA : 01.07.2016**
Outstanding amount : A Sum of Rs.1,54,43,366/- (Rupees One crore fifty four lakh forty three thousand three hundred and sixty six only) as on 31.10.2023
Description of Immovable Properties : Schedule 'A' Property: All that Property bearing Sy.No.114, 119/1, 119/2, 120, 121/1, 121/2, 121/3, 121/4, 122,123,124/2, 124/3, 124/4, 124/5, 124/6, 124/7, 124/8, 124/9, 125/1, 125/2, 125/3, 125/4, 126, 126/1, 127/1, 127/4, 127/5, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 142, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148/2, 148/3 and 149 situated in Kaggalipura Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk and measuring 62 acres 12.25 guntas, duly converted for Non Agricultural purposes and presently bearing Panchayath Khata Nos.1293/01 and 1293/03 in the records of Kaggalipura Village Panchayath and bounded East by : Bengaluru – Kanakapura N.H.209, West by : Pipeline and Remaining Portion of the Property in Sy.No.114, North by: Property in Sy.No.113, Govt Tank in Sy.No.150 & Property in Sy.No.143, South by : Property in Sy.No.116, 118, 127, 134 and 135.
Schedule 'B' Property: 452 Sq.Feet or 41.99 Sq.Mtrs, Undivided Share, right, title, interest and ownership in the land in Schedule 'A 'Property.
Schedule 'C' Property: All that piece and parcel of residential apartment bearing No C-1923 in 2nd Floor of Block -19 in Sector 5 'CLOVER' of 'BRIGAGE MEADOWS' built in Schedule 'A' Property presently bearing e-Swathu No.150200300100320673 and admeasuring 955 Sq feet of built up area and 195 Sq.feet of proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, lifts, staircases and other areas of common use and totally measuring 1150 Sq.feet of super built up area approximately, with right to use one covered car parking space in the stilt level and the apartment is bounded: On the East by: Open towards open space in block -19 in sector 5 'Clover' of "Brigade Meadows", On the West by: Apartment No.C-1924 in 2nd Floor of Block 19 in Sector 5 Clover of "Brigade Meadows", On the North by: open towards open space in Block – 19 in Sector 5 Clover of "Brigade Meadows", On the South by: Open towards Open Space in Block 19 in Sector 5 'Clover' of "Brigade Meadows".

Therefore, you, No.1, 2 as Borrower/co-Borrower/Guarantor in terms of the aforesaid notice have been called upon to pay the aforesaid sum together with future interest and charges thereon within 60 days from the date of this publication. That on your failure to comply therewith we, the secured creditor, shall be entitled to exercise all or any of the rights under Section 13(4) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002. In terms of Section 13(13) of the Act you shall not transfer the secured assets aforesaid from the date of receipt of the notice without Bank's prior consent. Please take note of the provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Date : 08.12.2023 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place : Bengaluru **Union Bank of India**

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If I must die
Let it bring hope
Let it be a tale

Refaat Alareer

FIRST WORLD COUNTRIES, THIRD WORLD IMAGERY

THE THIRD EYE

SHANKKAR AIYAR
Author of *The Gated Republic*, *Aadhaar: A Biometric History of India's 12 Digit Revolution*, and *Accidental India*
(shankkar.aiyar@gmail.com)

ON Thursday evening, Rishi Sunak found himself locked out of 10 Downing Street along with Dutch PM Mark Rutte after a photo-op. The opposition promptly leveraged the embarrassing moment as a political metaphor for a beleaguered Sunak, who is dogged by inheritance and inadequacies. The metaphor also reflects the systemic stasis gripping the UK—and indeed other advanced countries.

Imagine this: the prime minister of a G7 nation with a GDP of $3 trillion standing with colleagues around a pothole. On November 17, the official handle of the UK prime minister on X posted a picture of the PM in Firth Moor. The post announced an allocation of £8 billion to fix potholes and declared, "Following today's announcement, this could be the last photo of a politician pointing at a pothole." Sunak reposted it, asserting, "I reserve the right to point at any remaining potholes."

The potholes in governance elsewhere are resulting in human suffering. According to data published by the UK's House of Commons, the waiting list for hospital treatment rose to a record of nearly 7.8 million in September 2023. The NHS says the wait time for non-urgent, consultant-led treatments could be as long as 18 weeks. Fact: the 18-week target has not been met since 2016. It is not just healthcare, schools have been disrupted too. Last week, 231 UK schools were listed as affected by the use of reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete.

Attention, however, is not on what haunts people, but on another leadership contest. The trigger: the stop the boats strategy. This week, the immigration minister jumped the boat between the signing of a new agreement with Rwanda and its passage in parliament. The UK has spent £240 million without a single person deported to Rwanda. Details matter. Boat crossings have spiralled from 299 in 2018 to 29090 in 2023. Brexit lacks a returns agreement on channel crossings.

The erstwhile empire is by no means the only domain facing crises. The Euro zone is headed for a recession. The EU expects growth to slide to 1.2 percent, a decline from the historic average of 2.5 percent by 2027. Philip Lane, chief economist at the European Central Bank, spells it out: "Many countries, where they were in the 1990s, they're behind that now. There's not been progress—there has been regress... Over time, reforms have been cancelled—this is an avoidable own goal."

The consequence of economic stagnation is manifest. Europe is wracked by strikes across the zone. Unionised workers in France went on strike in March and in October. This Thursday, German train drivers went on a last-minute strike, the fourth this year. Strikes at airports—in Italy, France, Belgium and Greece—disrupted travel and wrecked holiday plans of Europeans. Such is the regularity of strikes that publications such as *Time Out* put out advisories for travellers. The dates to watch out for are: December 10, 12, 15-17, 19, 22-31.

Economics influences politics. Countries which once colonised geographies for natural resources—and wooed workers from Africa and elsewhere—are hotspots of anti-immigration riots. Germany, Austria, Switzerland, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark and Sweden inducted guest worker programmes to build their economies. Germany deployed the Gastarbeiter programme to draw over 2 million workers mostly from Turkey, Morocco and Tunisia to rebuild its post-war economy. France similarly attracted waves of workers from North Africa and even placed them under surveillance in later years.

Europe's decline is founded on the strategy of wishful thinking. It depended on NATO for its defence and outsourced economic growth to China. The Euro zone economy faces structural issues—its productivity is plummeting, its population is shrinking. Like the US, it needs migrants; but the countries have turned into laboratories of anti-migration politics. The far right has crafted a constituency of protestors who are taking to the streets in France, Sweden, Ireland, Germany and Amsterdam against immigration. The influence is visible in the reign of Victor Orban in Hungary, the election of Giorgia Meloni in Italy and Robert Fico in Slovakia. The Netherlands once colonised domains from Guyana to Taiwan—it ceded Manhattan to the British for the Indonesian Island of Run in the Treaty of Breda. It then depended on guest workers to grow the economy. The Dutch recently voted for far right leader Geert Wilders.

Across the Atlantic, in the US, the economy is still holding up but politics is descending into chaos. The US evangelises human rights globally, but at home politics has wrenched away the rights of women over their body. Its healthcare system is in shambles. The US has lost 106,842 lives to drug overdose over a year, with seven of every ten to opioids. Till December 6, the US has witnessed 633 mass shootings this year. The largest exporter of arms has explicit rules on usage for countries, but at home gun violence has claimed over 40,167 lives. Leadership matters, but as of now it seems a battle of septuagenarians, Biden v Trump II—an NBC poll reveals 70 per cent of the respondents don't want Joe Biden and 60 per cent do not want Donald Trump.

The third world imagery streaming from first world countries is stark. It illuminates why the idea of rule-based democratic world order is floundering.

WHY INDIA CANNOT DO WITHOUT CONGRESS

OPINION

SHASHI THAROOR
Third-term MP from Thiruvananthapuram and a Sahitya Akademi award-winning author of 24 books, most recently *Ambedkar: A Life*

THE post-mortems continue to be written after last weekend's election results, mostly dismissing the Congress's prospects in the forthcoming general elections and announcing that it is finished in the Hindi belt. Its historically poorest performance in 2014, followed by a comparable failure in 2019 and now the recent losses in four states—in all of which it expected, and was expected to, fare much better—has convinced commentators that the Grand Old Party is facing its biggest crisis ever. 'Congress-*mukt* Bharat' was one of Modi's election slogans during the 2014 Lok Sabha campaign. Is he about to realise that goal in 2024? I am tempted to say: not so fast, friends.

This is not said out of complacency, the very attribute many are ascribing to us to account for our defeat even in states where we were said to be well ahead. Later this month, on December 28, the party celebrates its 139th foundation day. I am well aware that many formerly formidable national parties like the Whigs in the United States or the Liberals in the UK have faded into irrelevance or even extinction after once being seen as "natural parties of government".

Our own relatively shorter democratic history has witnessed the disappearance of once-formidable national parties—Rajaji's Swatantra Party, once India's largest opposition party, which had as many seats in the Lok Sabha after the 1967 elections as the Congress had in 2014; the Communist Party of India, which has now dwindled to a marginal appendage of its breakaway faction, the CPI(M); and the Janata Party, which ruled India from 1977 to 1979.

The Congress won't disappear like Janata or merge into another party like Swatantra, but it is already reduced to being the third or fourth party in several states where it had earlier been either the ruling party or the principal opposition. This is why some write the Congress off as a once-formidable force that lingers on as little more than a shadow of its own storied history.

VINAY MADAPU

But even without denying any of this, it is important to underscore one vital truth: India cannot do without the Congress. What it stands for, and the space it occupies, are essential for the nation to survive and thrive.

This is not merely because the Congress is the party that led the freedom struggle and won us our independence. Nor even because, with the 120 million votes it won while losing the election of 2019, it still has a much larger support base than its paltry numbers in parliament suggest. It is also because the Congress is alone in seeing India as a whole; its core convictions reflect the vision that India belongs to all who had contributed to its history and civilisation, and that the majority community has a special obligation to protect the rights, and promote the well-being, of India's minorities.

The Congress is not just another political party—it is an ideology shaped in the crucible of our national movement. In both governmental policy and personal practice, the Congress stands for an idea of India that embraces those of every religion, caste, ethnicity or language.

This is why the party has managed to bounce back from earlier crises—its splits in 1969 and 1977, Indira Gandhi's assassination in 1984, Rajiv's assassination in 1991, the disastrous Kesri interlude of ineptitude and infighting (1996-98) and its longest period without being in power at the Centre (1996-2004). Will an even longer period be inaugurated by the next elections? I wouldn't bet on it.

Let's not forget that the Congress is the only pan-Indian party that provides an alternative to the BJP. It may be in power only in three states, and in coalition in two more, but collectively these span the length of the country from Himachal to Telangana, and it remains a viable alternative from Rajasthan to Assam and from Kashmir to Kerala. It is difficult for the smaller regional parties like the Aam Admi Party or the Trinamool Congress to compete outside their immediate catchment areas, but the INDIA alliance can leverage the Congress's nationwide presence. Even in defeat, the vote difference is not unbridgeable. With its national footprint, a modest 5 percent swing in favour of the Congress could deliver it an additional 60-70 seats, which, together with victories of the INDIA parties in their own states, would threaten the survival of the Modi government.

Yet the Congress's messaging has proved a challenge. Attacking Hindutva is portrayed as "appeasing" minorities, but echoing it is seen as Hindutva-lite, and who wants that when they can vote for the original? Attacking the Modi government is depicted as "negativism", but silence is denounced as "weakness". Criticising the BJP's majoritarian and authoritarian version of nationalism is savaged as "anti-national", but not doing so cedes the nationalist space to the BJP. It seems sometimes that whatever Congress does, it will be blamed.

The BJP's real advantage over the Congress is election management: its money, its campaigning and PR, the strength of its sangathan (augmented by the RSS) in converting support into votes on election day. We have to face them with the determination that comes from the realisation that the 2024 election is a struggle for India's soul.

For ten years of BJP rule have done enormous damage to the country—to our economy, which is reeling under inflation and the highest unemployment ever recorded; to our social fabric, with the "othering" of minorities, especially Muslims; to our institutions, with the hollowing out of the autonomy and freedom they previously enjoyed; to the environment, with unbreathable air in our cities, undrinkable water in our rivers, and free passes to despoilers; and to our relations with our neighbours and our standing in the world, as incidents from Qatar to the US, and Vancouver to Galwan, confirm. In 2004, the Vajpayee government faced only one of these failures—unemployment—and yet lost the election.

So there is hope. The Congress is down but not out. We will never allow Mr Modi to fulfil his dream of a 'Congress-*mukt* Bharat'—for India's sake.

(office@tharoor.in)

THE SPY WHO BECAME DISENCHANTED

OPINION

NANDITHA KRISHNA
Historian, environmentalist and writer based in Chennai

LISA Warden spent two years in India with her (now ex) husband, devoting her time and energy to street dogs. She tried to implement animal birth control in Visakhapatnam and Ahmedabad, but ended up fighting the municipality of Ahmedabad—where they lived—for their use of cruel tongs to catch dogs. With criminal charges levelled against her, she left before things could get ugly. The use of tongs has since been made illegal in India.

But that was not Lisa's first sojourn in India. She was here earlier as the daughter of Canadian ambassador Bill Warden, who has written the book, *Diplomat, Dissident, Spook*, about his fascinating life as a Canadian diplomat and spy in some of the spookiest and politically thrilling places—Soviet Union during *perestroika*, Cuba under Fidel Castro, Hong Kong during Deng's Beijing Spring, Pakistan during the Afghan insurgency, and India during the assassination of Indira Gandhi and the anti-Sikh riots, where he ended his career after the Air India aircraft disaster.

The late Bill Warden started out as a student with a conservative political ideology in Berlin in the late 1950s, where espionage was the order of the day and the world often stood at the brink of nuclear war. The infamous Berlin Wall came up three days after he left. In this memoir, Warden chronicles his career as a diplomat. Soon after he joined the Canadian foreign service came the Cuban missile crisis, of which Warden writes, "It was as if the world had stopped... I felt myself to be a spectator watching a surreal drama as the world edged to the brink of nuclear war."

His life confirms the popular belief that diplomats often work as spies for their governments in their various postings. The British and the Canadians have been the eyes and ears of the English-speaking West, especially the US. His first foreign posting was Moscow in the 1960s, where his dodging of KGB operatives reads like something out of a James Bond story.

From Moscow he went to Cuba, where he spied for the CIA in a clandestine cooperation programme between the US and Canada following the Cuban missile crisis. He reported on Castro, the Soviet presence and the economy. Whereas Moscow's grim comrades avoided western capitalists, Cuba's irrepressible Latinos were happy to talk to everyone. Surveillance was less intrusive. A detonated bomb in the Cuban consulate in Montreal and Castro's subsequent fury left the Canadians flustered. Excitement was a part of each posting, with hostage takers, government-sponsored kidnappings and the curious case of an American major who defected to Cuba with his young son.

He was subsequently posted as ambassador to Hong Kong and then Pakistan, where he carried out a mission to re-establish diplomatic ties with Tehran after the American hostage crisis and the so-called 'Canadian Caper' of smuggling out six Americans as Canadians. He negotiated the resumption of diplomatic relations with the revolutionary regime in Iran.

As an ambassador in Zia ul-Haq's Pakistan, he saw fortunes being made from the drug trade by army fat cats. This was the time when the West was encouraging and training *mujahideen* to fight the Soviets and when Osama bin Laden and other fundamentalists were establishing a presence in Pakistan.

Since Canada was also funding programmes aimed at refugees, the ambassador was often required to rally Afghans in the refugee camps during the insurgency. At the end, Warden writes, the Afghans would break into "Allah is great" and "Don't send us food. Don't give us sympathy. Don't bother about medicine. Send us guns, guns and more guns!" His experiences taught him—correctly in hindsight—that NATO's war in Afghanistan was unwinnable and that Afghan warlords were a law unto themselves.

Canadian diplomat Bill Warden's memoir, *Diplomat, Dissident, Spook*, is a fascinating look at the world of espionage at the height of the Cold War. It's also an evocative travelogue and the account of a spy who became discontented with western double standards and stodgy bureaucracy

Warden served as high commissioner to India during the turbulence of Indira Gandhi's assassination, the ensuing anti-Sikh pogroms and the Air India passenger jet bombing in 1985 orchestrated by Canadian Sikh terrorists that killed all 329 people on board.

He eventually became disenchanted with Canadian diplomacy. Like the British colonial bureaucracy, it rarely responded to suggestions from the field, Warden observes. He finally left the diplomatic corps for other pursuits—academia, driving buses (a childhood passion), observing elections in Latin America, and working with the Gorbachev Foundation, promoting democratic reforms in the Soviet Union. Mikhail Gorbachev has written the preface to the book.

His memoir is peppered with evocative descriptions—sunny Cuban beaches; spending a deep winter in a *kremlin* (fortress) on the banks of a frozen river silhouetted against the forest, with snow drifting down and a Russian peasant driving a horse and sledge through the late afternoon gloom; the mist-shrouded hills of China; the historic Khyber Pass and beautiful Swat Valley of Pakistan. He often travelled with his wife, three children, a Russian dog, a Cuban parrot and a guinea pig—probably the source of his daughter Lisa's later work for animals.

He rightly anticipated a grim result for Canada's laxity *vis-a-vis* Sikh extremism, which resulted, as he describes, in the "largest mass murder in Canadian history", when the Air India flight was blown out of the air. His remarks then are as valid today.

The absorbing autobiography ends with some of his articles in *The Calgary Herald* on western double standards on politics, diplomacy, war and democracy, covering a wide range of subjects from the perils of ignoring Russia, the war in Iraq and American policies towards South American dictators and governments. Most of these topics are relevant even today.

Bill Warden did not live to see his book published, but it is essential reading for government and foreign service officials, both in the West and those dealing with the West. Sadly, he ended his career doubting the political beliefs of his youth.

(nankrishna18@gmail.com)

QUOTE CORNER

The current conditions are making it impossible for meaningful humanitarian operations to be conducted. We are, nevertheless, preparing options for monitoring the implementation of the resolution, even if we recognise that in the present circumstances, that is untenable.

António Guterres, UN secretary-general, while invoking a rarely used rule that allows the secretary-general to convene the Security Council on his own

[Trump] persuaded churchgoers that it was better to win with vice than to lose with virtue. He blinded believers to the means and fixed their eyes on the ends.

Tim Alberta, American journalist and bestselling author, in his latest book, *The Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory: American Evangelicals in an Age of Extremism*

I have to think that in maybe five years I won't be able to play 5-a-side football with my friends. My son asks me to play with him and I simply cannot.

Luis Suárez, former Barcelona and current Gremio striker, explaining his chronic knee injury. He was adjudged the best player of the 2023 Brazilian Serie A

MAILBAG

WRITE TO letters@newindianexpress.com

Unjust expulsion

Ref: *TMC's Moitra expelled, gets Oppn support* (Dec 9). The expulsion of Trinamool MP Mahua Moitra from the Lok Sabha was a travesty of justice. Contrast Moitra's alleged offence with the disquieting fact that 40 percent of the sitting MPs have criminal cases registered against them, out of which 25 percent are charged with serious criminal offences such as murder, attempt to murder, kidnapping and crimes against women, according to data compiled by the Association of Democratic Reforms.

C G Kuriakose, Kothamangalam

Furious Mahua

The proverb says, 'Hell hath no fury than a woman scorned.' Will Mahua Moitra's expulsion create hell for the party that ousted her? We will just have to wait and see. Since she has vowed to create hell for the ruling party we can expect a roller-coaster ride for them. If the ouster was done with sufficient proof, the truth will prevail. But if it was done out of sheer political vendetta, then god help them because nature has a way of getting back.

Elizabeth Koshy, Pathanamthitta

Keeping promises

It has become a trend for newly elected parties to implement a few of their promises as soon as the swearing in ceremony is over. Advertisements declare that two or three of the guarantees have been fulfilled within two days of assuming office. Unfortunately, in most cases, we find after a few months that most of the promises have remained unfulfilled. The public again starts queuing up with grievances and the scenario is back to square one. A consistent approach, meticulous planning, avoiding in-house politics and a fair approach to commoners can win back public trust.

M Pradyu, Kannur

Chennai lakes

Political parties are forgetting the importance of managing water. Tanjore delta farmers cry for water every year. Is there a concrete solution? Chennaites either face flood or drought. Jayalalithaa had created a fifth reservoir. The new government is interested in a new international airport. Why can't it aim for another Veeranam-like lake near Chennai and pump the excess flood water into it? The hard-earned money of the poor and middle classes can't be wasted in floods.

R Ganesan, Chennai

Lower rates

Ref: *RBI holds key rate again, asserts inflation focus* (Dec 9). The RBI has been maintaining status quo on the repo rate for quite some time now. If private investments have to pick up, then it is imperative that the RBI lowers the repo rate, bank rate, cash reserve ratio or any quantitative credit control measure. This will help commercial banks ease the rate of interest to firms, leading to more investment, employment, income and output. India needs to focus on enhancing supply rather than controlling demand to rein in inflation.

S Ramakrishnasayee, email

Fishing trouble

Thirteen Indian fishermen were recently arrested by the Sri Lankan navy. This is a perennial issue that needs redress. These fishermen go far where there are no structures to delineate boundaries. So they should be issued portable receivers. Indians also should not use mechanised trawlers, which angers the Sri Lankan government and fisherman, so that India's diplomacy for getting the arrested fisherman released could have better traction.

Venkateshwaran R, Parakkai

Rajendran tribute

It is an omission not to report the passing away of former CPI secretary in Kerala, Kanam Rajendran, on December 8. He was admitted to a hospital for diabetes treatment and suffered a cardiac arrest recovering. His death at age 73 came at a time when the entire cabinet led by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan was out of town as a part of the ongoing Nava Kerala Sadas yatra. Many local and national leaders sent their messages of condolence for Rajendran.

V Venkitasubramanian, Coimbatore

THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS

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POSTS OF THE DAY

Pralhad Joshi @JoshiPralhad
Cabinet makes an eco-friendly decision... 100% foodgrains and 20% sugar to be compulsorily packed in jute bags henceforth.

Supriya Shrinate @SupriyaShrinate
Mahua Moitra's removal is a proof of fear within the Modi govt and its submission to Adani. The whole effort is to ensure that questions about Adani are not asked in the House.

Yogendra Yadav @_YogendraYadav
The PM said 'hat-trick'. Everyone else also said 'hat-trick'. By morning, the message spread across the country that no one can stop BJP from winning LS elections for the third time.

Mamata to take up Mahua expulsion at Delhi sit-in on Dec 17

PRANAB MONDAL @ Kolkata

TMC MP Mahua Moitra's expulsion from Parliament will be a key issue, besides West Bengal's dues from the Central government, which state Chief Minister **Mamata Banerjee** is likely to raise during her protest in Delhi on December 17, according to party sources.

Though dues from the Central government was the scheduled agenda of Banerjee's sit-in demonstration, Moitra's expulsion is likely to get top priority, as the party supremo has made it clear that the party stands firmly beside the expelled MP.

According to party insiders, Moitra was directed to spend as much time as she used to, in her constituency Krishnanagar. Banerjee, while condemning the Lok Sabha action, gave a clear hint on Friday that Moitra may contest as a TMC candidate in the Lok Sabha polls next year.

Describing Moitra's expulsion from the Lower House of Parliament as BJP's politics of vendetta, a betrayal of her constitutional rights and a sad day in India's democracy, Banerjee said there would be no reason for not fielding Moitra in the upcoming general elections.

"The opposition INDIA bloc stood beside Mahua Moitra. Our party chairperson Mamata Banerjee made it clear on Saturday that the party would fight together under the banner of the opposition alliance. She will raise the expulsion issue in her Delhi Chalo protest next week. We will highlight the issue in the campaigns ahead of the 2024 LS polls across the state as well," said a senior TMC leader.

> **Mamata Banerjee made it clear on Saturday that the party would fight together under the banner of the opposition alliance. She will raise the expulsion issue in her Delhi Chalo protest next week**
>
> TMC leader

In the Krishnanagar constituency, the TMC staged demonstrations against Moitra's expulsion. The protest is likely be spread to other parts of the state from Sunday. "The party high command has asked to stage demonstrations to protest an elected MP's ouster from Parliament. We will follow it in all districts, both in south Bengal and north Bengal, which turned out to be BJP's turf in the 2019 general elections," the party leader added.

EAM to meet families of 8 former Naval officers today

Families hopeful of Emir's pardon on Qatar's National Day on Dec 18

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

FAMILIES of the eight incarcerated naval veterans awarded the death penalty in Qatar, will get to meet External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar on Sunday. This will be the third interaction Jaishankar will have with the families.

"The third hearing in the court of appeal was held on December 7 and the families are looking forward to meeting the EAM. Jaishankar has met the family members of the veterans twice, the first was on October 30, the second on November 9, and the third is slated for December 10," said a source.

"I met the families of the eight naval veterans detained in Qatar and stressed that the government attached the highest importance to the case. Fully share the concerns and pain of the families. We underlined that the government will continue to make all efforts to secure their release. Will coordinate closely with the families," Jaishankar said after meeting the families on October 30.

The next hearing of the case is expected to be held by month-end. This will be in the Cassation court. A court of Cassation is a high-instance court, which is the highest court of appeal. Such courts do not re-examine the facts of a case; they only interpret the relevant law.

There is a lot of optimism among the family members that the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamas Al Thani, will consider pardoning these naval veterans on their national day, on December 18.

"The Emir pardons prisoners on this day and we hope that he will consider doing the same for these eight people. However, a week from now, things will become clear. There has been a lot of relaxation of rules for the eight naval veterans. They are now permitted activities in the gym and can play games like badminton and tennis. Also, some officers were allowed to call back home twice a week — against the once-a-week norm in the past," said a source privy to the matter.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's interaction with Qatar's Emir during the COP28 Summit in the UAE last week, following their warm handshake, has raised the expectations of the families.

On October 26, a Qatari court sentenced seven retired naval officers and a sailor to death. These individuals, employed by Al Dahra Global Technologies in Doha, a private firm providing training and services to Qatar's armed forces and security agencies, had been detained since August the previous year on unspecified charges, with allegations of espionage.

The eight veterans are Captain Navtej Singh Gill, Captain Birendra Kumar Verma, Captain Saurabh Vasisht, Commander Amit Nagpal, Commander Purnendu Tiwari, Commander Sugunakar Pakala, Commander Sanjeev Gupta and Sailor Ragesh.

How the case has progressed

August 2022
- 8 ex-Indian Navy officers detained in Doha, Qatar. Charges not made public. However, media reports suggest 'spying for Israel'
- **Eight mates:** Capt Navtej Singh Gill, Capt Birendra Kumar Verma, Capt Saurabh Vasisht, Commander Amit Nagpal, Commander Purnendu Tiwari, Commander Sugunakar Pakala, Commander Sanjeev Gupta and Sailor Ragesh
- **What they were doing:** They were in-charge of teaching the Qatari Navy and were employed by a private firm run by an officer from the Oman Air Force that offers training and other services to Qatar's armed forces

October 1, 2022
India's Ambassador in Doha and Deputy Head of Mission meets the naval veterans

March 2023
The eight have their first trial, seek consular access

August 4 2023
The arrested men get some relief as they are shifted from solitary confinement and put in a jail ward with their colleagues, with two men for each cell

October 27 2023
The detained personnel sentenced to death by Qatari court

ANUMULA REVANTH REDDY

THE MAN WHO ONCE SAID, 'MY TIME WILL COME'

IREDDY SRINIVAS REDDY

SOURAV ROY

"I WILL see your end. My time will come". This was Revanth Reddy to K Chandrasekhar Rao, the first chief minister of India's youngest state, in 2015. Revanth had been arrested after being caught red-handed by the Anti-Corruption Bureau for allegedly offering ₹50 lakh to a nominated MLC to vote in favour of the candidate of his then party, TDP.

Rewind to 2009. YS Rajasekhara Reddy was the chief minister of undivided Andhra Pradesh and Telangana seemed a distant dream. Revanth played a key role in persuading KCR to contest from the Mahbubnagar Lok Sabha segment in order to strengthen Telangana sentiment in the southern part. The TRS supremo heeded, a counsel that Revanth would come to regret later.

Revanth was not yet an MLA in 2009. Back in 2007, the 38-year-old won MLC elections as an independent. YSR is said to have asked him to join the ruling Congress. But Revanth chose the TDP, as he felt an opposition party would offer more scope for a youngster to make a mark — the same feisty nature, the fighting spirit that everyone across the country is now aware of after he dethroned the seemingly invincible KCR and became the second CM of Telangana.

NEWSMAKER

With the ruling TRS (later BRS) decimating the TDP in Telangana, Revanth joined the Congress in 2017 and soon became its working president. After a bitter loss from his Kodangal segment in the 2018 Assembly elections, Revanth soon recovered and won from Malkajgiri, India's largest Lok Sabha constituency in terms of the number of electors, in the 2019 LS elections.

His rise in the Congress seemed inevitable and Revanth soon became the Telangana PCC chief in June 2021, less than three years after he joined the party.

But the victory of Revanth's Congress in the 2023 state elections was far from inevitable. Just a few months after he became the TPCC chief, the party not just lost its deposit in the Huzurabad bypoll, but its candidate also won just 3,000 votes. And a year down the line, in the Munugode bypoll, the party again lost its deposit with the TRS and the BJP finishing far ahead of Congress in both the bypolls.

Revanth was under pressure after such debilitating defeats, but did not lose heart. He went ahead with his Dalit Girijana Dandoras, Yuva Sangarshana Sabhas and padayatras to infuse his fighting spirit into the party cadre. Though some seniors were against Revanth, an outsider, the party high command gave him full support.

Top leaders, including Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi, did not just back Revanth from Delhi. They campaigned aggressively in the state ahead of the polls. The TPCC chief was the only state Congress leader to campaign all across Telangana. This, despite him taking on KCR from Kamareddy and also contesting from his traditional seat Kodangal.

Though Revanth (and KCR too) lost from Kamareddy to the BJP dark horse K Venkata Ramana Reddy, his decision to contest from the segment helped the Congress bag four seats from the erstwhile Nizamabad district, up from zero in 2018. The BRS bastion of North Telangana crumbled in the face of the sustained Congress campaign, helping the grand old party, which won 34 out of the 54 seats in the region, come to power in the state for the first time.

While the BJP has not yet decided its CM faces in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, Revanth's central role in the campaign made the choice of chief minister relatively easy for the usually faction-ridden Congress. He was sworn in as Telangana CM on December 7, four days after the results.

When he was 31, Revanth spoke to a close friend about his ambition of becoming chief minister one day. For many others, that would have been just another daydream, but the hardworking Revanth has made it. Being in power for the first time, after all those years in the opposition, will be a new challenge. The beginning has been busy, with the CM listening to people's grievances in the renamed Praja Bhavan and implementing two of the party's six guarantees. The CM would want to keep his foot on the pedal to achieve another of his dreams — doing something beyond belief for Telangana so that people do not remember its first CM.

Cong takes stock of Assembly poll debacle, says 'will fix accountability'

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and party leader Rahul Gandhi arrive for the review meeting at party headquarters in New Delhi on Saturday | PTI

A week after its poll defeat in Rajasthan, the Congress' top leadership on Saturday held a meeting to review reasons for the poor performance.

This was attended by party president Mallikarjun Kharge, former president Rahul Gandhi, former Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot, Congress Working Committee member Sachin Pilot, AICC general secretary K C Venugopal, state in-charge Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa and state chief Govind Singh Dotasra, among others.

According to sources, top leaders felt that though a temporary truce was worked out between Gehlot and Pilot before the elections, it did not strike a chord with the electorate. BJP's divisive campaign was also cited as one of the reasons, said sources.

The leaders also felt that though the party was strong on the ground, state leaders could not create a momentum with campaigns on the lines of those in Karnataka. It was also learnt that Rahul Gandhi and Kharge had asked Gehlot, Pilot and Dotasra to start preparing for the 2024 polls at the earliest.

Speaking to reporters, Randhawa said that the party was able to retain its vote share. A detailed analysis will be done, he said. When asked if accountability would be fixed, he replied in the affirmative, maintaining that there was no need for a change of guard as the party has not done badly.

After the Mizoram review meeting, AICC in-charge Bhakt Charan Das said, "We discussed every aspect of the Mizoram election, including the organisational structure of the state at the grassroots level and state level." The Congress won only one seat in the state.

The party had held separate meetings on Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh on Friday.

Eastern Zonal Council meeting to discuss MSP for minor millet crops

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

UNION Home Minister Amit Shah will chair a meeting of the 26th Eastern Zonal Council (EZC) in Patna on Sunday. Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar, who had parted ways from the BJP-led NDA some time ago, will attend the meeting as its vice-chairman.

At the meeting, various issues like setting minimum support price for a number of minor millets, creation of infrastructure and water sharing will be discussed.

The Eastern Zonal Council includes Bihar, West Bengal, Jharkhand and Odisha. The meeting is being organised by the Inter-State Council Secretariat under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in collaboration with the Bihar government.

According to an official statement from the MHA, the 26th council meeting will be attended by the CMs of the member states, along with two senior ministers from each state. "The chief secretaries and other senior officers of the Central government will also attend the meeting," the statement said.

It said that important decisions related to the minimum support price of 'kodo' and other millet crops and many other agriculture-related issues are expected to be taken. The National Framework for Sediment Management in 2022 would be another issue to be taken up.

Official sources said that the issues proposed by the states are first presented for discussion before the standing committee of concerned zonal council. The chief ministers of member states of these councils and administrators or L-Gs of UTs are members of the five councils and one of them on rotation basis act as vice-chairman every year.

India quiet on fossil fuels, bats for climate justice

SV KRISHNA CHAITANYA @ Dubai

Union minister for climate change Bhupender Yadav at COP28 in Dubai, Saturday | PTI

UNION Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav on Saturday delivered the 'COP28 National Statement' at the high-level segment for Heads of States in Dubai.

While there was no direct reference to fossil fuels, the statement says, "India firmly believes that equity and climate justice must be the basis of global climate action. This can be ensured only when the developed countries take the lead in ambitious climate action."

Yadav said that India looks forward to the outcomes of global stocktaking and hopes that there will be a meaningful input for deciding on enhanced climate action. "Resource mobilisation under the New Collective Quantified Goal must be guided by the needs and requirements of the developing countries," the minister told global heads.

Sources in the Indian COP28 delegation say that for India, meeting its energy requirements is paramount. On its part, the country is doing all it could to mitigate emissions and is well on its path to fulfill all the targets set in the NDC.

Yadav said India has now finalised its Third National Communication based on greenhouse gases (GHG) inventory of 2019 along with Initial Adaptation Communication. "It underscores our consistent contribution towards climate action while also prioritising the development and well-being of our people."

Without mentioning a word on phasing out of coal or other fossil fuels, he said, "In our endeavour to decouple economic growth from GHG emissions, India has successfully reduced the emission intensity vis-a-vis its GDP by 33 per cent between 2005 and 2019, thus achieving the initial NDC target for 2030, 11 years ahead of the scheduled time. India has also achieved 40 per cent of electric installed capacity through non-fossil fuel sources, nine years ahead of the target for 2030. Between 2017 and 2023, India has added around 100 GW of installed electric capacity, of which around 80 per cent is attributed to non-fossil fuel-based resources. We have therefore revised our NDCs upwards indicating our deep commitment towards enhanced climate action," the statement reads.

The verbatim of India's national statement was in perfect sync with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech at the ceremonial opening of COP28 earlier this month. It highlighted India's contribution to climate action through its international efforts such as International Solar Alliance, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, creation of LeadIT, Infrastructure for Resilient Island States and the Big Cat Alliance.

The Global Biofuel Alliance, launched when the G20 leaders met in New Delhi earlier this year, seeks to serve as a catalytic platform fostering global collaboration for advancement and widespread adoption of biofuels, Yadav said.

Govt has established a direct relation, an emotional bond, with people: Modi

PARVEZ SULTAN @ New Delhi

REFERRING to the results of the assembly elections concluded recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said that it is a clear indication of the validity of "Modi's Guarantee" and added that some political parties do not understand that by making "false announcements", they would achieve nothing.

He was interacting with the beneficiaries of the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra.

"We have established a direct relationship, an emotional bond between the Central government and the people of the country. Our government is not a Mai-Baap Sarkar. Rather, it is the serving government for the father and mothers. Modi works to serve you in the same manner a child serves his parents," he said.

The Prime Minister further stated that poor citizens are the priority of his government and he cares for them. "Modi's VIPs are those who are poor, deprived, and for whom even the doors of government offices were closed. Every mother, sister and daughter of the country is VIP to me. Every farmer in the country is VIP to me. Every youth of the country is VIP to me," he said.

The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra is being undertaken across the country with an aim to attain the saturation of flagship schemes of the government by ensuring that benefits reach all targeted beneficiaries in a time-bound manner. As part of the campaign, Information, Education and Communication (IEC) vans are being sent to their districts.

Modi, through video conferencing, interacted with some of the beneficiaries of various schemes being run by the government. He sought to know how they had benefitted from the schemes.

Modi said that it is a matter of satisfaction that people's enthusiasm is increasing as the yatra vehicles reach more places. Over 1.25 crore people have connected with 'Modi ki guarantee' vehicles (IEC vans) in a short time, he claimed.

Loud and clear

The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra is being undertaken across the country with an aim to attain the saturation of flagship schemes of the Centre, by ensuring that benefits reach all targeted beneficiaries in a time-bound manner. Information, Education and Communication (IEC) vans are being sent to each districts.

BRIDGE COLLAPSE

Observing that one-time compensation is not enough for victims of the Morbi suspension bridge collapse, the Gujarat HC has ordered life-time pension to the elderly and jobs or stipend to widows.

3 HELD WITH BROWN SUGAR OF `20 LAKH IN BENGAL

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	39	23	Mumbai	33	28
Bhopal	33	18	Panaji	32	24
Jaipur	36	24	Patna	35	27
Amritsar	36	18	Lucknow	36	22
Chennai	36	27	Port Blair	28	24
Kolkata	34	27	Imphal	31	19
Srinagar	27	05	Chandigarh	35	19

■ Union ministers Prahlad Singh Patel & Narendra Singh Tomar in race for CM post ■ BJP's veteran retains Raipur-South with impressive win

One minister each from all districts in new MP cabinet?

ANURAAG SINGH @ Bhopal

WHILE the suspense on who will take over as the next Madhya Pradesh chief minister will end next week, the ruling-BJP is likely to ensure one representation each from all 28 out of the 29 Lok Sabha seats in the new cabinet. The BJP had won 28 out of the 29 LS seats in the 2019 national elections.

"Our party is known for its disciplined cadres, who religiously perform the duties assigned by the top brass. The three central observers will reach Bhopal and the meeting of the newly elected 163 legislators will be held at 4 pm on Monday," said state BJP president VD Sharma.

Upsetting poll calculations and bucking anti-incumbency of over 18 years rule, the BJP won a resounding mandate in the recent assembly polls, winning 163 out of the 230 assembly seats, while Congress was 97 seats behind at just 66 seats.

> Our party is known for its disciplined cadres, who religiously perform the duties assigned by the top brass. The three central observers will reach Bhopal and the meeting of the newly elected 163 legislators will be held at 4 pm on Monday,"
>
> VD Sharma, State BJP president

Besides, CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan, other names in the race for the next CM include union ministers Prahlad Singh Patel, Narendra Singh Tomar and Jyotiraditya Scindia, party's national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya and state party chief VD Sharma.

Meanwhile, with the next Lok Sabha polls just four months away, the party is likely to ensure representation of each of the 28 LS seats (won by BJP in 2019) in the next council of ministers, by ensuring at least one MLA from each Lok Sabha seat.

The outgoing council of ministers headed by Shivraj Singh Chouhan had 34 ministers.

Out of them, cabinet minister Yashodhara Raje Scindia did not contest the polls citing health grounds, while of the Jyotiraditya Scindia-loyalist ministers OPS Bhadoria was denied ticket. Twelve of the remaining 32 ministers lost the polls.

How BJP won saffron vs saffron fight

EJAZ KAISER @ Raipur

IN the recent Chhattisgarh Assembly polls, a constituency saw a keen saffron-versus-saffron contest, with the BJP's brand of Hindutva finally trouncing the Congress' version. The Raipur-South constituency saw seven-time BJP MLA Brijmohan Agrawal pitted against Congress' Mahant Ramsundar Das, a twice MLA and chief of Dudhadhari Matha (Hindu monastery).

The local people are emotionally attached with beliefs and traditions associated with Matha and have high regards for the Mahant. It was supposed to be a safe seat for the party that launched an aggressive campaign against 'sanatana or Hindutva' appeal of the BJP.

However, Agrawal, now an MLA for the eighth consecutive term, created a significant milestone registering the highest victory margin of 67,719 in Chhattisgarh elections.

"This is the victory of the people who saw Congress and its associated elements using money with muscle power to defeat me. The election result shows the people had made up their mind to teach a lesson to the Congress that hatched a conspiracy against me. It's the Congress that tried to polarise the voters, not the BJP," Agrawal told this newspaper.

The poll outcome is sought to be projected as a political message. Congress' Hindu seer candidate, Ramsundar Das, who is also the chairman of 'Gauseva Ayog', proved no match for the senior BJP leader.

BJP leader Brijmohan Agrawal during the poll campaign | EXPRESS

The Mahant claimed himself as a true follower of Lord Ram and denied there was any effort by Congress to polarise the voters on religious lines. "The party fought well, as a devout sadhu I do not nurture any fear over loss," said Mahant.

Observers attribute the popular approval for Agrawal to his wide popularity. The Congress didn't appear to have any effective leader or action plan to counter Agrawal, who is known to have nurtured his constituency.

The BJP said the alleged attack on Agrawal during his poll campaign in a Muslim-dominated area of Chhotapara also led to massive support for him.

"The development stopped across urban Raipur under the Congress rule will now be in focus," Agrawal said after his victory.

Elsewhere in Chhattisgarh, Congress had tried to match BJP's saffron genre. After coming to power in 2018, the state government publicized schemes to buy cow dung and cow urine. In 2022, the state government expanded the ambit of its so-called Godhan Nyay Yojna. It was a scheme to procure cow urine at Rs. 4 per litre. The state government started to procure cow dung at a rate of Rs. 2 per kg. They were reportedly procured to make fertilizer and pesticides named as Jeevmitra and Brahmastra. Though the RSS supported the move, the BJP mocked the decision saying that instead of helping the youth find employment, the Chhatisgarh government was forcing them to collect cow dung.

Bhupesh Baghel-led Congress government was also active in building and beautifying temples in the name of Mata Kaushalya, the mother of Shri Ram. The construction of statues of Shri Ram at different places was also an important programme of the Baghel government. Mr. Baghel himself laid the foundation stone for the expansion of an ancient temple of Mata Kaushalya in Raipur as he believed that Chhattisgarh was the maternal home of Lord Ram.

BJP candidate won 7 previous elections

The locals are emotionally attached with beliefs and traditions associated with Math. It was supposed to be a safe seat for the party that launched an aggressive campaign against 'sanatana or Hindutva' appeal of the BJP. However, Agrawal, now an MLA for the eighth consecutive term, created a significant milestone registering the highest victory margin of 67,719 in Chhattisgarh elections. Observers attribute the popular approval for Agrawal to his wide popularity.

JAIPUR DIARY

RAJESH ASNANI
Our correspondent in Jaipur
rajesh.asnani@newindianexpress.com

Gehlot vs Pilot: It's a fight for LoP post

The rift between the camps of outgoing chief minister Ashok Gehlot and his former deputy Sachin Pilot seems to be still continuing even after losing the recently concluded Assembly elections at the hands of the BJP. The Pilot's camp wants their leader to be named the Leader of the Opposition. On the other hand, though Gehlot had cleared that he is not in the race, his camp is batting for Mahendra Singh Malviya and Shanti Dhariwal at the post. There is also a buzz that Pilot is seeking the party's state unit president's post. But, sources say, that can only be possible if the incumbent president Govind Singh Dotasra becomes the LoP.

Gehlot in a fix in dealing with his OSD

For the outgoing chief minister Ashok Gehlot, dealing with his Officer of Special Duty (OSD) Lokesh Sharma has become a problem. Sharma, recently not only blamed Gehlot for the defeat in the state Assembly elections but also accused him of spying on former deputy chief minister Sachin Pilot. Notably, Sharma is an accused in an alleged phone-tapping case involving Union Minister Gajendara Singh Shekhawat and Congress MLAs during the revolt by Pilot in 2020. According to sources, Sharma's accusations against Gehlot can be linked to a strategy to save himself from getting arrested in the case.

Balmukund pro-Hindu moves are for a reason

Balmukund Acharya, a Hindu priest who recently won the Hawa Mahal constituency with a narrow margin of nearly 1,000 votes, remains in the limelight. A day after getting elected, he launched an anti-meat shop campaign and asked the authorities to shut down the shops in his constituency which are operating without a license. But, sources say, he received a scolding from the party for the move and the very next day apologized for it. Political experts feel that Acharya is trying to attract the attention of top party leaders in Delhi to secure a cabinet berth in the BJP government.

Shah hails India's eco growth, says it is unmatched

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

HOME Minister Amit Shah said that India's remarkable economic growth over the past decade is unmatched globally.

Speaking at the concluding ceremony of Uttarakhand Global Investors Summit at Forest Research Institute, Dehradun, Shah said, "Compared to the target of 2 lakh crore agreements, more than 3 lakh crore agreements have been signed in the state in the summit, this is the beginning of exploring the endless possibilities of new Uttarakhand".

In the 75 years since gaining Independence, India has never experienced such significant progress in its economy. This achievement has garnered international attention and admiration, the world is amazed at it, he added.

Wearing a traditional Uttarakhandi cap, he commended the progress of Uttarakhand in various areas, such as efforts to reduce migration from border villages, enhancing transportation and pilgrimage facilities, infrastructure development, and the implementation of investment-friendly policies.

Maha uproar over onion as farmers, traders up in arms over ban on exports

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

ONION farmers in Maharashtra are in arms against a Central government decision to impose an export ban on the vegetable which led to its prices crashing in the market.

As per traders, onion was being sold at the rate of ₹50 per kg but after the ban, the prices went down to ₹25 per kg.

"The crops were damaged due to a long dry spell in August and heavy rainfall now. There may be shortage of onions but farmers should not be at the receiving end of government's topsy-turvy policies. The government should buy onions at fair prices from the farmers which may help to reduce their anger," said Nanasaheb Patil, former chairman of Lasalgaon APMC, Asia's largest onion market in Nasik district.

Maharashtra deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar and agriculture minister Dhananjay Munde are likely to fly to Delhi and meet Union minister Piyush Goel regarding the export ban and giving relief to farmers. The protesting farmers and traders forced the agricultural produce market committee to shut down the auction of onions, demanding lifting of the export ban.

Ajit Nawale, general secretary of All India Kisan Sabha, said that the farmers of Maharashtra will intensify their protests if the Centre doesn't lift the export ban. "The BJP has completely ignored the farmers. Cotton, soyabean, and now onion prices have crashed. The farmers are unable to even get back their expenses," Nawale added.

Vijay Wadettiwar, Congress MLA and Leader of Opposition, said the party will flag the issue in the on-going winter session of the Maharashtra state assembly in Nagpur.

RAJASTHAN

1 arrested for killing chief of Karni Sena

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

THE police have made the first arrest in the murder of Rajput leader and Karni Sena chief Sukhdev Singh Gogamedi, who was shot dead at his Jaipur home on December 5.

Ramveer, who allegedly helped the shooters - Rohit Rathod and Nitin Fauji - flee the spot on his bike and dropped them off at Ajmer Road, has been arrested, the police said in Jaipur. He lived in the same village as Nitin, they added.

Gogamedi was sipping tea with four men at his Jaipur home on December 5 when suddenly, two of the men got up from their chairs and fired indiscriminately at him, leaving him in a pool of blood on the floor.

As per the police, Ramveer is a close friend of shooter Nitin Fauji and had made arrangements in Jaipur for him and helped the criminals escape from Jaipur. The police arrested Ramveer after interrogating him at his house.

They are questioning him and other suspects. The two shooters are yet to be arrested.

Hot oil poured on hands of C'garh students for not cleaning school toilets

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Raipur

IN a shocking incident, around 25 female students of a government school in Kondagaon district, Chhattisgarh allegedly suffered burns on their hands after they were forced to pour hot oil on each other's hands as a punishment.

The teachers found that someone had defecated outside the girl's toilet at the Kherwahi middle school in Kondagaon district, after which they started questioning the students. Failing to get answers, the students were allegedly asked to pour hot oil, used to cook mid day meals, on each other's hand as punishment.

The parents protested and sought action against the teachers involved. On the instruction of the Kondagaon collector Deepak Soni, the district education officer based on a preliminary investigation suspended three teachers.

However, teachers said that they only advised the students to keep the toilet clean and develop the habit of cleanliness.

"The act was totally unacceptable. The students did not keep the toilets clean despite several warnings. Therefore, the children decided to punish themselves.

Later, we found that the girls tried to find the culprit. There is an old belief that a person who is guilty will get blisters on their palm when hot oil is poured. So they used this method. We did not know the girls carried out such irrational practice," one of the teachers said. The teachers delivered first aid to the girl students as caregivers, it was learnt.

"Based on the initial probe report, the head principal along with the two teachers have been suspended and the sanitation worker was sacked," said Madhulika Tiwari, the district education officer.

Three teachers suspended

The parents protested and sought action against the teachers involved. On the instruction of the Kondagaon collector Deepak Soni, the district education officer based on a preliminary investigation suspended three teachers.

Temple trust to pick 1 of 3 idols of Ram Lalla this month for consecration

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

THE Borad of Shree Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust is set to select the idol of Lord Ram in child form, this month, for its consecration in sanctum sanctorum on January 22 next year.

In fact, three idols are being carved out currently in Ayodhya away from the public eye. While one is being sculpted with a white marble of Makrana, Rajasthan, two others are being given shape in the stones sourced from Karanataka.

The Trust, in its meeting scheduled this month, will select one of the most attractive and tenacious of the three idols to be placed in the sanctum-sanctorum of the Ram Mandir while the two others will also be placed in the temple but at different locations. According to temple trust general secretary, Champat Rai, all 15 members of the trust had decided to select one 51-inch idol of the three at a meeting presided over by trust chief Mahant Nritya Gopal Das on October 7-8.

The Board of Trustees will also decide the place in the Ram Mandir where the remaining two idols of the Ram Lala will be placed, said Rai.

The final selection of the idols is likely to be made by the members of the temple trust in mid-December (between December 15-23), said sources.

Significantly, all the three sculptors giving shape to the idols are renowned in their own might. They have been tasked with chiselling as many idols of Ram Lala and the best will be selected to be placed in sanctum-sanctorum during the consecration ceremony on January 22, 2024.

Latest photo of Garbh-griha (sanctum sanctorum)

While Ganesh Bhatt of Karnataka is carving out the idol from Nellikaru rocks (black stones) which are also known as Shyam shila or Krishna shila due to resemblance of their colour with Lord Krishna, the other idol is taking shape in Mysore from another rock also sourced from Karnataka. The second idol is being chiselled by famous sculptor Arun Yogiraj of Mysore.

It may be recalled that Yogiraj had carved out a 12-ft statue of Adi Shankaracharya in Kedarnath that was unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi last year. Yograj shares the legacy of his father, Yogiraj Shilpi, the famous sculptor hailing from a family of Mysore palace artists.

Even the 28-ft-tall black granite statue of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose placed at India Gate has also been carved out by Arun Yograj. It was also unveiled by PM Modi in September last year.Similarly, in Rajasthan, the onus of carving out the idol is on Satya Narayan Pandey who is chiselling it from white Makrana marble stones.

RAM MANDIR IN AYODHYA

Idol based on sketch by Mumbai- based artist

As per the temple trust sources, Ram Lala's idol under making is based on the sketch given by renowned Mumbai- based artist Vasudeo Kamath. He had presented pencil-made sketches of Ram Lala to the temple trust.Kamath had 28 paintings of Ramayan series with global acclaim to his credit. Kamath basically focuses on mythology and historical subjects while painting.

86-year-old head priest from Varanasi has Chhatrapati Shivaji connection

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

THE rituals related to the consecration ceremony of the idol of Lord Ram in upcoming temple in Ayodhya on January 22 will be led by an 86-year-old Vedic Karmkand (ritualistic) scholar from Varanasi Pt Laxmikant Mathuranath Dixit.

He will lead a team of 121 Vedic scholars and acharyas from all the streams of traditional Vedic system from across India.

According to Pt Laxmikant Mathuranath Dixit's son Sunil Laxmikant Dixit, also a Vedic scholar, they belong to the lineage of 17th century Kashi's scholar Gaga Bhatt who had presided over the coronation of Chatrapati Shivaji in 1674.

The veteran scholar has specialisation in Shrauta (Sanskrit word rooted in Shruti- that which is heard), Smarta (based on Smriti which are specific body of Hindu texts), Yajna, consecration.

As per sources, he was given the responsibility of pranpratishthha (consecration) of Ram Lala as the head priest -- Archarya – by Kanchi Kamakoti Peetham Shankarcharya Swami Vijayendra Saraswati in the presence of Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust's treasurer Swami Govind Devagiri and general secretary Champat Rai, during his (Shankaracharya's) stay for Chaturmas in Kashi.

In September, Kanchi Kamakoti Peetham Shankaracharya Swami Vijendra Saraswati sent the team comprising the scholars, including Dixit and Acharya Ganeshwar Shastri Dravid, to Ayodhya to decide the dates of consecration while meeting Rai and other prominent saints.

Following the finalisation of date and designation of Dixit as Acharya to perform consecration rituals, the selection of other team members was done under the guidance of Kanchi Kamkoti Peetham Shankarcharya. The Dixits have been living in Kashi for 10 generation. However, as per Sunil Laxmikant Dixit, they originally come from Jeur village near Solapur in Maharashtra. Their forefathers were engaged in studies and teaching besides practising Karmkand after settling in Varanasi.

EU strikes deal on world's 1st comprehensive AI rules

BRUSSELS

EUROPEAN Union negotiators clinched a deal on Friday on the world's first comprehensive artificial intelligence rules, paving the way for legal oversight of technology used in popular generative AI services like ChatGPT that has promised to transform everyday life and spurred warnings of existential dangers to humanity.

Negotiators from the European Parliament and the bloc's 27 member countries overcame big differences on controversial points including generative AI and police use of facial recognition surveillance to sign a tentative political agreement for the Artificial Intelligence Act.

"The EU becomes the very first continent to set clear rules for the use of AI," European Commissioner Thierry Breton tweeted. The result came after marathon closed-door talks this week, with the initial session lasting 22 hours before a second round kicked off Friday morning. Officials were under the gun to secure a political victory for the flagship legislation but were expected to leave the door open to further talks to work out the fine print, likely to bring more backroom lobbying. The EU took an early lead in the global race to draw up AI guardrails when it unveiled the first draft of its rulebook in 2021. The recent boom in generative AI, however, sent European officials scrambling to update a proposal poised to serve as a blueprint for the world.

The European Parliament will still need to vote on it early next year, but with the deal done that's a formality, Brando Benifei, an Italian lawmaker co-leading the body's negotiating efforts, told The Associated Press late on Friday. "It's very very good," he said by text message after being asked if it included everything he wanted. *AP*

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client **Bank of India, Malleswaram Branch,** No.112, between 10th & 11th Cross, Margosa Road, Malleshwaram, Bangalore 560003 Rep. by its Chief Manager is the mortgagee of below mentioned schedule property. My client informs me that they have lost the original sale deed dated **15-04-2004** duly registered as document No. RJN-1-00221-2004-05, Book I, and stored in CD No.RJND47 of the sub registrar, Rajajinagar, executed by Smt.S.Vijayalakshmi and others in favour of Sri.M.K.Srinivasan during transit and they have lodged a E Lost Report: 0839475/2023 date: **07-12-2023** and who ever finds the said document kindly hand over to the undersigned or **Bank of India, Malleswaram Branch** within 15 days failing which it is treated as the said document has been untraced/lost.

SCHEDULE 'A'

All that piece and parcel of property bearing survey No.32, BBMP No.32 Devasandra village Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore measuring about 20368 sq. feet bounded on: East by : Portion of the same survey No. fallen to Sri.Dayanandamurthy West by : Portion of the same survey No. fallen to Sri.V.S.Bhaskar, North by : Road, South by : BDA Road.

SCHEDULE 'B'

All that proportionate undivided 1/36th share of the land measuring 501 sq. feet in the schedule 'A' property.

Bangalore.
Date : 08.12.2023

Prashant N.Hegde,
Advocate, KAR 853/86
No.24, Ist Floor, Ist Main Road,
Seshadripuram, Bangalore-560 020

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Bank of India, **Malleswaram Branch,** No.112, between 10th & 11th Cross, Margosa Road, Malleshwaram Branch, Bangalore 560003 Rep. by its Chief Manager is the mortgagee of the below mentioned schedule property. My client informs that the original sale deed dated **16-07-2011** duly registered as document No. YPR-1-00808-2011-12, Book I, and stored in CD No.YPRD32 of the sub registrar, Yeshwanthpur, executed by **Sri. K.G. Prakash in favour of Sri. M.K. Srinivasan** and another sale deed dated **16-07-2011** duly registered as document No.YPR-1-00809-2011-12, Book I and stored in CD No.YPRD32 of the sub registrar office, Yeswhanthpur executed by **Sri. K. G. Ramesh in favour of Sri.M.K.Srinivasan** has been lost during transit and Bank has lodged E-Lost Report: 0839481/2023 on 07-12-2023 and who ever finds the said documents kindly hand over to the undersigned or to Bank of India, **Malleswaram Branch** within 15 days failing which it is treated as the said document has been untraced/lost.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the part and parcel of the property bearing Municipal No.33, PID No.7-35-33, 17th Cross Road, Malleshwaram, Bangalore, within the limits of BBMP Ward No.35 (earlier two separate properties Municipal No.33 and 33/2) measuring East to West 50 feet and North to South 54 feet, totally measuring 2700 square feet and bounded on the:- East by : Property of G.Nagendra bearing Municipal No.33/1, West by : Road, North by : 17th Cross Road, South by : Property bearing Old No.23 and New No.50.

Bangalore.
Date : 08.12.2023

Prashant N.Hegde,
Advocate, KAR 853/86
No.24, Ist Floor, Ist Main Road,
Seshadripuram, Bangalore-560 020

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL AT COIMBATORE

Jawan's Bhawan, 2nd & 3rd Floor, 27, Travellers Bungalow Road, Coimbatore 641018

O.A.No.694 OF 2023

The Karur Vysya Bank Ltd., Asset Recovery Branch, No.1498 –C, 3rd Floor, KVB Towers, Avinashi Road, Peelamedu, Coimbatore 641004 **Rep.by its Chief Manager**

....Applicant

Vs

1. M/s. Esuntech Micromatics Partnership firm, Rep. by one of its partner Mr.S.Sivakumar S/o.Sankaranarayanan, having office at : No.7/622-0-, Keeranatham Road, Saravanampatti, Coimbatore 641035.

2. S.Sivakumar, S/o.Sankaranarayanan, **Partner M/s.Esuntech Micromatics,** having office at : No.7/622-0-, Keeranatham Road, Saravanampatti, Coimbatore 641035.

Also at: **S.Sivakumar,** S/o.Sankaranarayanan, **Partner M/s.Esuntech Micromatics,** Residing at : No.400, E.B.Colony, Opp. To Aditya Institute of Technology, Kurumbapalayam, Coimbatore 641 107.

Also at: **S.Sivakumar,** S/o.Sankaranarayanan, **Partner M/s.Esuntech Micromatics,** C/o.Micromatic Innovation Pvt.Ltd., No.82/2, First Floor, Airport Road, Chikkajala Post, Bangaluru 562 157 Karnataka.

3. Mrs.Chaya Devi, W/o.Sivakumar, **Partner M/s.Esuntech Micromatics,** Having office at: No.7/622-0, Keeranatham Road, Saravanampatti, Coimbatore 641 035

Also at: **Mrs.Chaya Devi,** W/o.Sivakumar, **Partner M/s.Esuntech Micromatics,** Residing at : No.400, E.B.Colony Opp. To Aditya Institute of Technology, Kurumbapalayam, Coimbatore 641 107.

4. Mr.K.M.Vikramathithan, S/o.Murugesan, **Partner M/s.Esuntech Micromatics,** Having office at: No.7/622-0, Keeranatham Road, Saravanampatti, Coimbatore 641 035

Also at: **Mr.K.M.Vikramathithan** S/o.Murugesan **Partner M/s.Esuntech Micromatics** Residing at: No.837, Poolangulam Village, Near to High school, Kunnathur Post, Tirupur Dt-638103.

5. V.Vimaladevi, W/o.K.M.Vikramathithan, **Partner M/s.Esuntech Micromatics,** Having office at No.7/622-0, Keeranatham Road, Saravanampatti, Coimbatore 641 035

Also at: **V.Vimaladevi,** W/o.K.M.Vikramathithan, **Partner M/s.Esuntech Micromatics** Residing at No.837, Poolangulam Village, Near to High school, Kunnathur Post, Tirupur Dt-638103.

...Defendants 1 to 5

NOTICE TO THE DEFENDANTS NOS.1 TO 5

The above named the applicant bank had filed an original application under section 19 of RDDBFI Act, 1993 before the above said Tribunal for recovery of money and the said case taken on file in **O.A. No.694 of 2023.** The said case stands posted on **26.12.2023** for your appearance at **11.00 A.M.** at above mentioned date in person or through pleader. Failing which the above said case will be decide in your absence

//By Court Order//

K.Sethuram
Advocate
204, Aiswarya Complex,
Gopalapuram, Coimbatore - 641 018

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Follow us on @SCRailwayindia
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C.Railway can be seen on our website: www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

Tender Notice No.49/2023 Dated.08.12.2023. Supply Of Stores Items. E-Procurement Tender Notice

PUB/1328

The Following Tenders Have Been Floated Online. Tenderers Are Requested To Visit The Website www.Ireps.Gov.In And Submit Their Offers Online. The Tender Description, Qty, EMD, SD May Be Seen In Website. Offers Submitted Manually Will Not Be Accepted. Offers By Post Will Not Be Entertained. Tender Closing Time Is 14.30 Hrs Of The Due Date Of The Tender. "For All Indigenous Offers, EMD Will Be Accepted Only Via Online System As Available On **www.Ireps.Gov.In."**

Tender No.	Brief Description
75.23.1216A	Fire Retardant Neoprene Rubber Sheet
52.23.2013	Procurement of GUI Based PRS
56.23.5454	Supply of SMPS based Mini ips for iBS
60.23.PT171	RC for supply of Hook Bolt of 28 mm of length 400 mm with square neck
75.23.1223	Vinyl Coated Upholstery Fabric
29.23.1485c	Set of pins &Bushes for Brake rigging of WAP-7 locos consisting of 15 items
67.23.5005	Supply installation and Commissioning of Automatic coach washing plant
33.23.5019	Supply installation Automatic Fire Detection cum Suppression System
65.23.5041A	Design supply installation Testing& Airless shot blasting machine
65.23.5058	Electrically operated Surface traverse of 70-T Capacity
30.23.1051A	Protective Tube (polyacetal) for Axle Box Guide
29.23.1397	Oil cooler radiator for converter No.CLW/ ES/3/0102.Alt-E
81.23.1417B	'HP POWER KOOL RR'
60.23.7289	Procurement of Roller Conveyor CHAIN part no.SU-3'-P(SUP-3inches)
60.23.7431A	Procurement of STONE 10V STD; 10.230DX6.00IDX3.25 For the use of Track machine
60.23.5984	Procurement of isolation vibration mounting ,Air cleaner elements filters
60.23.6468A	Manufacture and supply of ISEJ to RDSO Drg no.T-6902
60.23.PT170	RC for Manufacture & supply of Nylon cord Reinforced Elastomeric pad of size 25x300x245mm for steel sleepers.
56.23.5452	Supply.installation and commissioning of Dual Redundant arrangement of UFSBI
56.23.5470	High Availablability Single Section Digital Axle Counter
60.23.9140	Manufacturing &Loose Fitting for SEJ 60 Kg to RT 4165

Note:-Due dates of Tender Opening: SL.No.01 on dt 22.12.2023. SL.No.02to 06 on dt.26.12.2023. SL.No.07 to 10 on dt.27.12.2023. SL.No11 to 13 on dt.28.12.2023. SL.No.14 to 18 on dt 29.12.2023 SL.No. 19 to 21 on dt.02.01.2024.

CORRIGENDUM

(1).**Tender Notice No.48/2023** dt.01.12.2023.Tender No.56.23.5152.due on 06.12.2023. Brief. Design pvc insulated,Armoured Unscreened,Underground Railway signalling cable copper conductor size 12corex1.5 sq.mm.. May be read as due on 18.12.2023.Instead of existing **Beside Above** Mentioned Tenders. There Are Other Tenders Having Value Below Rs.25 Lakhs.

For Details, Please Visit Railway Website Above

Principal Chief Material Manager, Secunderabad

Open e-Tender Notice No. Dy.CE/GS/SC/01/EPC/2023/OT. Dated: 07-12-2023

PUB/1329

For and on behalf of President of India, the undersigned invites e-tender for the following works up to 14.00 hours on 31-01-2024.

Sl.No.: 1 **e-Tender No.:** EPC_01_GS_SC_23 OT **Name of the work:** Major upgradation of Hyderabad Railway Station in Secunderabad Division of South Central Railway on Modular Concept on Engineering. Procurement And Construction (EPC) mode **Approx. Tender Cost:** ₹306,73,75,226/- **EMD.:** ₹1,53,36,900/- **Completion period in Months:** 24 Months **Maintenance period in Months:** 36 Months

1) Tenderers should participate through e-tendering only and no manual offers may be considered.

2) All the prospective tenderers are requested to remit Cost of EMD through online payments only.

3) The Railway reserves the right to cancel the tender without assigning any reason thereto

4) All the prospective tenderers are advised to get GSTIN identification Nos. and submit alongwith their offers.

Dy.Chief Electrical, A1826 Gati Shakti, Secunderabad

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, please visit website at www.ireps.gov.in http://www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

NATIONAL CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL COMMISSION
Under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019

Telephone No. :011-24608801-04 Fax No. :011-24651505
Upbhokta Nyay Bhawan 'F'- Block,General Pool Office Complex, INA, NEW DELHI- 110023

CONSUMER COMPLAINT No. 36 OF 2021

Pravesh Kumar Sethi & Ors. ...Complainants

Versus

M/s Maithri Developers & Anr ...Opposite Party

THE PURCHASERS/ALLOTTEES OF THE RESIDENTIAL FLATS/ UNITS IN PROJECT/SCHEME NAMELY "SHILPITHA SPLENDOUR ANNEX, BANGALORE" SITUATED AT: CHINNAPA LAYOUT, MAHADEVPURA, BENGALURU- 560048

Whereas the above Complainants have, through **Mr. Tushar Jain, Advocate,** having address at: **Tushar Jain & Associates (TJA), C-48, LGF, Lajpat Nagar-1, New Delhi-110024. Mob: 9717708889,** filed the captioned Consumer Complaint before the Hon'ble National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, New Delhi on behalf and/or for the benefit of all the consumers who have either booked or have been allotted a flat, in the project/scheme namely **"SHILPITHA SPLENDOUR ANNEX, BANGALORE" SITUATED AT: CHINNAPA LAYOUT, MAHADEVPURA, BENGALURU- 560048** being developed by the Opposite Parties named above for redressal of their common grievances, and seeking the following reliefs: -

a) Obtain the Occupancy Certificate for the Project (which shall include the entire fenced area (by BBMP), with already constructed amenities), making it legally dwell able for the Flat Owners including the complainants, along with compensation for delay in securing of the said Occupancy Certificate;

b) Make the entire fenced area (by BBMP) along with "Rajkaluve/rainwater storm/nala bridge" and already constructed amenities, legally available for the use of Flat Owners and the Complainants along with compensation for such deprivation/hindrances/obstacles caused in the peaceful stay of the Flat owners/Complainants in the Project;
Alternatively, in the event of failure of the Opposite Parties to provide both the reliefs together as claimed in prayer (a) and (b) above, this Hon'ble Commission may be please to order and direct the Opposite Parties in terms of prayers (c) and (d) below;

c) Refund individually to each of the Complainant and the Flat owners the total consideration amount under the Absolute Sale Deed along with other charges paid by the Flat owners/Complainants to the Opposite Parties along with an interest of 18% per annum till realization;

d) Refund individually to each of the Complainant and the Flat owners. the actual expenses incurred on account of registration charges and stamp duty towards the registration of Residential Flats in the name of respective Complainant/Flat owner along with an interest of 18% per annum till realization;

e) Refund collectively to the Complainants and the flat owners an amount of Rs. 5,58,897/- till February 2021 for water charges on account of failure to provide Occupancy Certificate to BWSSB and to further pay an amount under the head of Other Charges" (in water bills) as still continued to be levied by BWSSB, till the date of securing of Occupancy Certificate/or till the date of refund received in terms of alternate prayers above, as the case may be, along with an Interest of 18% per annum till realization;

f) Refund collectively a sum of Rs. 11,71,499/- [Rs. 6,72,700/- (under the head Sanitary Borewell Charges) and Rs. 4.98,799/- (under the head Sanitary Charges)] as paid by the Flat owners including the Complainants to BWSSB along with an interest of 18% per annum till realization;

g) Refund collectively an amount of Rs. 18,63,803/- (Rs. 5,21,000/- and Rs.13.42,803/-) paid by the Flat owners including the Complainants to the vendors for the construction of dual piping and water harvesting system along with an interest of 18% per annum till realization;

h) pay individually to each of the Complainant and the Flat owners a sum of Rs. 2,00,000/- each, on account of mental agony and harassment caused due to the fraud, injury resulting from the failure of the Opposite Parties in honoring their commitment and for the deficient services provided;

i) Pay collectively to the Complainants and Flat owners a sum of Rs. 20,00,000/-, paid on account of the present and other legal proceedings; and

j) Pass any other order(s) that this Hon'ble Commission may deem fit and just in this regard to the facts and circumstances of case in favor of the Complainants and against the Opposite Parties.

And whereas the Hon'ble Commission vide its order date**10.10.2023** (Copy enclosed) is pleased to direct issue of notice of the institution of the above captioned complaint to all the consumers having same interest in the matter. Accordingly, all allottees of the above referred Project having the same grievance against the Opposite Parties, may appear before the Commission in-person or through an Advocate / Authorized Representative on **05.02.2024 at 10:30 a.m.** They can inspect the file of the aforementioned complaint in the office of the Counsel for the Complainant (s) and apply for being impleaded as a party to the complaint.

They may also note that the decision of the Commission in the captioned complaint will be binding on all the consumers on whose behalf and/or for whose benefit the complaint is instituted.

Dated, this 30th day of November 2023

By Order
30/11/2023
(Pradip Majumdar)
Section Officer

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that, my clients (1) **Sri Venkatesh**, S/o Biliramaiah aged about 60 years, (2) **Smt. Manjula**, W/o Sri Venkatesh, aged about 49 years, (3) **Sri. Punith Kumar**, S/o Venkatesh, aged about 36 years, (4) **Smt. Chaitra**, D/o Venkatesh, age about 32 years all are residing at Muthkur Village, Anugondanahalli Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.are the absolute owner of the, property which is more fully described in the schedule hereunder. One Muniraj, S/o Narasimaiah had fraudulently obtained a sale agreement dated 28-1-2019 in his favour registered as Document No.HSK-1-10310-2018-19, in Book-1, stored in C.D.No. HSKD678, registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Hoskote My clients have cancelled the said Sale Agreement causing a legal notice dated 21-9-2023 to the said Muniraj, S/o Narasimaiah.Further my clients will not be responsible for acts, deeds or agreements executed by the said Muniraj, S/o Narasimaiah as my clients have cancelled the sale agreement.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the land bearing Sy.No.69, measuring 0-18 situated at Muthkur Village, Anugondanahalli Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District and bounded as follows: **East by:** Land of Basheety Srinivas, **West by:** Land of Krishnappa, **North by:** Land of Narayanappa, **South by:** Land of Shankarappa.

Sri. Y.V. RADHA KRISHNA, Advocate
No.117, 1st Floor, 22nd Cross, Cubbonpete, Bengaluru. Mob: 9845170804

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform General Public that my client is intending to purchase the schedule property belonging to **Sri.H.S Radhakrishna**, Son of Late Subba Rao Hosaagrahara, Aged about 74 years, Residing at No: L1702, Diamond Block, Rainbow Vistas, Rockgarden Green Hills Road, Moosapet, Hyderabad, Telangana – 500 018, AADHAAR: 7133 9823 60855. Any, person, having any claim over the schedule property claiming through the predecessors in title or any other person, may lodge their objections or claims, in writing with all supporting documentary evidence by registered post with regard to such claim with the undersigned within 10 (ten) days hereof, failing which my clients will proceed to conclude the Sale Transaction. Any claims lodged thereafter will not be entertained by my clients;

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of site bearing BDA No.860, situated at Banashankari Sixth Stage, Eleventh Block, Bangalore and bounded on the: **East by :** Site bearing BDA No.864; **West by :** Road; **North by :** Site bearing BDA No.859; **South by :** Site bearing BDA No.861; MEASURING: East to West : 24 mtrs.; North to South : 15 mtrs.; In all ad-measuring 360 sq.mtrs.

N S RACHANA, N C JANARDHAN
Rachana Law Associates,
"Lakshmideep", I Floor, No:2980, 17th Cross, Banashankari II Stage, Bangalore-560 070; PH : 9731810810.
Dtd: 09-12-2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

LOST OF DOCUMENT

That my clients residing at No. 19, 8th Cross, Sudhamanagar, Bangalore-27 have misplaced the Original Sale Deed Document of the land bearing Sy. No.2, to an extent of 2 acres 23 guntas, **Gullobanahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District,** the aforesaid property formed in one unit with **Sri. M. Padmamma wife of P.Chickakrishna.**

My clients have lodged a police complaint regarding the misplacement of the original sale deed document of the property.

In Wilson Garden Police Station Bangalore with complaint number 0833015/2023.

If anybody have possessed the document or any claims or right, title and interest in respect of the properties referred to above, may call upon the undersigned and file objections if any within a week from this day, in the absence of which our client would proceed in the matter of getting certified copy of the same from the revenue authorities after that the original sale deed document will be invalid and no claims of any kind from any body will not be considered and entertained with original sale deed document of the aforesaid property.

Harish, Advocate
Sulibele Road, Devanahalli Town,
Bangalore Rural District
Mobile : 8095839123

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our clients **Mr.Saideep Lall** and his Wife **Mrs. Vidhi Sharma** are intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder from **Mrs. Anitha Fernandes** W/o. Mr. Errol Fernandes and her son **Mr. Jason Fernandes**; any person/s objecting for the proposed purchase or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof on or before **30 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our clients shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of residential **Plot No.32/1,** measuring an area of 3377 Sq. Ft., carved out of Survey No.11/1, of Thanisandra Village, duly converted for residential purpose vide Official Memorandum, bearing No. BDS.ALN.SR (EAST)50/2002-03, dated 03.09.2002 issued by the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District forming part of the layout called **"FERNS RESIDENCY"** situated at **Thanisandra and K. Narayanapura Village, K. R Pura Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk** and presently within the jurisdiction of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike and bounded on the:

East by : Site No.32/2, On East:70 Ft. 03 Inches
West by : Pvt. Property, On West: 63 Ft. 40 Inches
North by : Private Road and On North:44 Ft.
South by: Private Property, On South: 58 Ft. 06 Inches.

C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., LL.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants
Bangalore-43. M: 9845846428, 9108784843

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Mr **Y.V Venkatesh** has intend to purchase the schedule property from present owner **Mrs Navannetha & Mrs.E Padma** who are acquired the same under a Deed of Absolute sale deed Dated 15-12-2022 which was registered as document No 8111-2022-2023 of book 1 stored in CD No RRND 1216 in the office of Sub Registrar Raja Rajeshwari Nagar Bangalore

Any person having or claiming any manner of right, title, claim, lien or interest in the Schedule Property may intimate the same in writing to the undersigned along with the documentary evidence in support of their claim ***within 2 weeks*** from the date of this publication, failing which my client will be advised to proceed with the conveyance as if no valid claims are subsisting against the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and Parcel of the Residential Property **Site bearing No 122 (Phase –II)** in sector No F the layout Formed by the Ideal Homes Co- operative Building Society called as Ideal Homes Township bearing BBMP Katha No **803/122/794/744** situated at **Kenchanahalli/ Halagevaderahalli Village Kengeri Hobli Bangalore South Taluk** now comes under the Jurisdiction of BBMP Ward no 160 Rajarajeshwari Nagar Sub Division measuring **East to West 40 feet and North to South 60 Feet Totally measuring 2400 Sq.ft** and together bounded as follows:

ON THE EAST : Site no 123
ON THE WEST : Site no 121
ON THE NORTH : Site no 128
ON THE SOUTH : Cross Road 2

Sd/-

Prasad Badhya, *Advocate,*
739/39 First Floor, Dr Rajkumar Road, 6th Block Rajaji Nagar Bangalore-560010
Phone-9844788741,
Email : bbadhya@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general Public that my client **Mrs Navannetha & Mrs.E Padma** who are acquired the same under a Deed of Absolute sale deed Dated 15-12-2022 which was registered as document No 8111-2022-2023 of book 1 stored in CD No RRND 1216 in the office of Sub Registrar Raja Rajeshwari Nagar Bangalore

Any person having or claiming any manner of right, title, claim, lien or interest in the Schedule Property may intimate the same in writing to the undersigned along with the documentary evidence in support of their claim ***within 2 weeks*** from the date of this publication, failing which my client will be advised to proceed with the conveyance as if no valid claims are subsisting against the Schedule Property.

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All that piece and Parcel of the Residential Property **Site bearing No 122 (Phase –II)** in sector No F the layout Formed by the Ideal Homes Co- operative Building Society called as Ideal Homes Township bearing BBMP Katha No **803/122/794/744** situated at **Kenchanahalli/ Halagevaderahalli Village Kengeri Hobli Bangalore South Taluk** now comes under the Jurisdiction of BBMP Ward no 160 Rajarajeshwari Nagar Sub Division measuring **East to West 40 feet and North to South 60 Feet Totally measuring 2400 Sq.ft** and together bounded as follows:

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Sd/-

Prasad Badhya, *Advocate,*
739/39 First Floor, Dr Rajkumar Road, 6th Block Rajaji Nagar Bangalore-560010
Phone-9844788741,
Email : bbadhya@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client is intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder from **Sri. Aditya Kumar Agarwal** S/o. Late Sri. Ram Kumar Agarwal, aged about 50 years, residing at No. 1, Ground Floor, Ramakrishna Ashram Marg, Bangalore-560 009, Aadhaar No. 6211 2000 1000, any person/s objecting for the proposed purchase or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof on or before **30 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our clients shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of residential **Plot No.32/1,** measuring an area of 3377 Sq. Ft., carved out of Survey No.11/1, of Thanisandra Village, duly converted for residential purpose vide Official Memorandum, bearing No. BDS.ALN.SR (EAST)50/2002-03, dated 03.09.2002 issued by the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District forming part of the layout called **"FERNS RESIDENCY"** situated at **Thanisandra and K. Narayanapura Village, K. R Pura Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk** and presently within the jurisdiction of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike and bounded on the:

East by : Site No.32/2, On East:70 Ft. 03 Inches
West by : Pvt. Property, On West: 63 Ft. 40 Inches
North by : Private Road and On North:44 Ft.
South by: Private Property, On South: 58 Ft. 06 Inches.

C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., LL.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants
Bangalore-43. M: 9845846428, 9108784843

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public at large are hereby informed that, my client had negotiated and agreed to purchase the Schedule Property described herein below mentioned property, from **M/s BHOO DEVELOPERES., having its office No.69, "DHRUVA SOWRABHA NILAYA" 1st Main 1st Cross, Medahalli Extension Medahalli Virgonagar Post, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore-560049, rep by its Partneres Sri. Ramanjaneya Son of late Chinnappa, and Sri. M. Krishna Murthy Son of late M. S. Munikempaiah.** As such any person/s/ Company / Bank / institution having any claim whatsoever over the schedule property are hereby called upon to file their objections, claims along with supporting documents to the below mentioned address within 7 days from the date of this notification. If no objections / claims are received within the said period my client shall proceed to conclude the sale transaction as if there are no objections or claims whatsoever and my client shall be considered as bonafide purchaser of the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing residential Site No.36, BBMP Khatha No.3070/Survey No.11/4A, carved out of converted Survey No.11/4A, measuring 39 Guntas of Bellathur Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, earlier Hoskote Taluk, presently Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore vide Conversion order bearing No.34098, ALN (EBK)SR:155/2021-2022, Dated 31-05-2022, issued by Deputy Commissioner Bangalore Urban District, Bangalore. And bounded on the: East by 30 Feet Road, West by Site No.43, North by Site No.37, South by, Site No.35.

G. V. Anjaneaya Gowda,
Advocate and Consultant,
 # 250, White City Layout, Seegehalli Village, Bangalore-560049
Mobile No. 9900716419

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our clients **Mr.Saideep Lall** and his Wife **Mrs. Vidhi Sharma** are intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder from **Mrs. Anitha Fernandes** W/o. Mr. Errol Fernandes and her son **Mr. Jason Fernandes**; any person/s objecting for the proposed purchase or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof on or before **30 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our clients shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of residential **Plot No.32/1,** measuring an area of 3377 Sq. Ft., carved out of Survey No.11/1, of Thanisandra Village, duly converted for residential purpose vide Official Memorandum, bearing No. BDS.ALN.SR (EAST)50/2002-03, dated 03.09.2002 issued by the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District forming part of the layout called **"FERNS RESIDENCY"** situated at **Thanisandra and K. Narayanapura Village, K. R Pura Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk** and presently within the jurisdiction of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike and bounded on the:

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South by: Private Property, On South: 58 Ft. 06 Inches.

C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., LL.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants
Bangalore-43. M: 9845846428, 9108784843

PUBLIC NOTICE

One **Sri A Selvaraj** S/o Alagiriswamy aged about 72 years residing at No 11, Shivagami Nilaya, Nanjappa Road, Opp. MM Nanjappa Manor Apartment, Shanthinagar, Wilson Garden, Bangalore-27, is the absolute owner in possession and enjoyment of the property land bearing old Sy. No. 77 new Sy. No. 77/1, Sy. No. 77/2, Sy. No. 77/3, Sy. No. 77/4 totally measuring to an extent of 4 acres situated at Devamachohalli Village, Tavarekere Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk having acquired the same under the registered sale deed dated 23-6-1995 vide Kengeri Sub Registrar office document no 4030/1995-96, volume 1896, pages 225 to 230, book no 1, since from the date of purchase our client Sri A Selvaraj S/o Alagiriswamy become the absolute owner in possession and enjoyment over the above said property and with regard to the above said property our Sri A Selvaraj S/o Alagiriswamy client had filed the suit in OS No. 9/2023 before the principal civil judge senior division at Magadi for declaration and permanent injection and RP No. 471/2023 before the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore both the cases are pending for adjudication, hence my client hereby require that any of the person had not dealt with above said disputed property as there are civil cases pending against the above said disputed property. If for any further clarification may kindly contact the above mentioned our office address.

Mahendra Selvaraj +91 73494 94949

Narasimha Murthy K N, Advocate
No. 20, 1st Floor, 8th Cross,
Tunganagara Main Road,
Opp Appannappa Layout, VN Post,
Bangalore-91.

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is/are hereby informed that my client/s is/are intending to purchase the below mentioned Schedule A & Blands from its registered owners viz., **1) Smt. Savithramma,** W/o Late Munireddy, **2) Sri. Karthik .M,** S/o Late Munireddy, **3) Sri. Chethan M.S,** S/o Sri. Srinivas Reddy, and **4) Master C VirenAdarsh Reddy,** S/o Sri Chethan M.S, all are residing at S. Medihalli, Sarjapura Hobli, Handenahalli PO, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District. If any person/s having any right, title, interest or claim of any kind or any objections, he/she/they is/are at liberty to notify their claims/objections if any with documentary proof of his/her/their right, title or claim to the below mentioned address within 15 days from the date of the publication of this notice. Any claim or objections raised and received after 15 days shall not bind on my client/s and my client/s will proceed to purchase the Schedule A & B Properties presuming that there are no claims or objections what so ever on the Schedule A & B lands.

SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Agricultural land bearing Sy. No. 189/3, measuring an extent of 10 Guntas out of the total extent of 25 Guntas, situated at S. Medihalli Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District and bounded on:

East by :	Road
West by :	Land bearing Sy.No:157
North by :	Remaining land in same Survey number belonging to Smt. Savithramma.
South by :	Sy.No.189/2 belonging to Sri Chethan M.S.

SCHEDULE'B' PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Agricultural land bearing Sy No 189/2(old) New Sy.No:189/5, measuring an extent of 10 Guntas out of the total extent of 1 Acre 06 Guntas, situated at S. Medihalli Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District and bounded on:

East by :	Road
West by :	Land bearing Sy.No:157
North by :	Land bearing Sy.No:189/3 belongs to Smt. Savithramma and her Son Sri Karthik.M
South by :	Remaining land in same Survey number belonging to Sri Chethan M.S.

Venkataramana Reddy, Advocate
No.85/1, II Floor, 19th Main, Sector-1,
HSR Layout, Bengaluru - 560102.
Mobole No.: 9844130703

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is/are hereby informed that my client/s is/are intending to purchase the below mentioned Schedule A & Blands from its registered owners viz., **1) Smt. Savithramma,** W/o Late Munireddy, **2) Sri. Karthik .M,** S/o Late Munireddy, **3) Sri. Chethan M.S,** S/o Sri. Srinivas Reddy, and **4) Master C VirenAdarsh Reddy,** S/o Sri Chethan M.S, all are residing at S. Medihalli, Sarjapura Hobli, Handenahalli PO, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District. If any person/s having any right, title, interest or claim of any kind or any objections, he/she/they is/are at liberty to notify their claims/objections if any with documentary proof of his/her/their right, title or claim to the below mentioned address within 15 days from the date of the publication of this notice. Any claim or objections raised and received after 15 days shall not bind on my client/s and my client/s will proceed to purchase the Schedule A & B Properties presuming that there are no claims or objections what so ever on the Schedule A & B lands.

SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Agricultural land bearing Sy. No. 189/3, measuring an extent of 10 Guntas out of the total extent of 25 Guntas, situated at S. Medihalli Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District and bounded on:

East by :	Road
West by :	Land bearing Sy.No:157
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South by :	Sy.No.189/2 belonging to Sri Chethan M.S.

SCHEDULE'B' PROPERTY

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East by :	Road
West by :	Land bearing Sy.No:157
North by :	Land bearing Sy.No:189/

₹5,248 Cr subsidy has been given to electric vehicle manufactures this fiscal as of Dec 5 under phase-II of FAME India Scheme, Krishan Pal Gurjar, MoS heavy industries, informed parliament

'GenAI has made artificial intelligence very consumable'

'AI to free up humans from repetitive tasks, so that they can focus on domain knowledge'

THE future with AI and the future of AI are two key questions haunting everyone as we see artificial intelligence (AI) seeping into every aspect of life. In an interaction with **Dipak Mondal** of New Indian Express, **Geeta Gurnani**, chief technology officer, IBM India, says Generative AI has made AI very consumable and very easy for everybody. Here is edited **excerpt**:

We feel AI is at a Netscape moment, what probably Netscape did to the Internet, that it made it very consumable, very easy for everybody. I think AI has come to that point thanks to Generative AI

Where is AI heading?

We feel AI is at a Netscape moment, what probably Netscape did to the Internet, that it made it very consumable and easy for everyone. I think AI has come to that point, thanks to Generative AI. AI was not new, we were using it. I have been part of the AI journey from 2015 onwards. So, I can say we are in that Netscape moment of AI where people can leverage AI to do and drive a lot more efficiencies in the way we work and operate.

I would say it has become very real for enterprises how they leverage and everybody is looking to see how we can leverage in every part of my business to largely drive the efficiency part of it. Revenue is still a second pillar. The first pillar still remains cost optimization and efficiency.

Will AI grow bigger than human intelligence?

As a philosophy, we are saying that the purpose of AI will always stay as augmenting human intelligence; it's never going to replace humans. AI will help free up humans from doing repetitive mundane tasks, so that a business user can use their business domain knowledge rather than doing some administrative tasks. It is clear that it will impact humans and digital labour, but it will free up individuals to do a more meaningful job, which is where you probably need human intelligence to come in. We do not see AI replacing humans.

Can you elaborate on data governance and its significance in the age of AI?

With my own experience dealing with a lot of enterprises and customers, I would say everybody is aware that data governance is a critical piece. It has become more critical in the Gen AI journey because now you are using the data used to train the models that are tomorrow going to make the decisions. If your data is not right and governed, it will be more like garbage in garbage out.

It will become critical because when you use data outside of your own enterprise data, you need to be really clear about the sources and what are the copyrights for each of those sources of data. So, data governance will become extremely important because the foundation of AI models is data. If we don't govern that part, we will land up in a situation where AI will not give us the outcome we would expect.

At what levels can we have governance?

Let's move from the data to the AI governance part of it. There are five areas where governance needs to ensure that you are leading an ethical AI practice in an organisation. That ethical AI will need five things. First is explainability, which is complete transparency on how the model arrived at a particular decision point. If we don't know how the decision was made then it is a challenge.

The second area is fairness, means properly calibrating the training and data so that AI assists in making fair choices and it doesn't give a biased choice to somebody. Hence, the training data should not be biased.

The third is robustness, which indicates that systems need to be robust in terms of security since these are critical training and data systems that people are operating. If we don't put security guardrails around it, we are at a risk of leaking the data or somebody changing the training data itself.

The fourth is transparency, which is designing the model in a way that it supports transparency. At any point in time if I want to know how much bias my model has right now, because there will always be a factor of bias.

And the fifth one is privacy, means you need to be absolutely clear that when you are even using consumer data, you are maintaining their privacy and leveraging their data.

Who should govern data and at what levels should it be governed?

I will say it's at a very initial stage, but as a client zero, because we also use AI in a lot of our own products, we have our own IBM Ethics Board, which is outside of every business unit and is as a central, cross-disciplinary body to support a culture of ethical, responsible and trustworthy AI throughout IBM. Once you source data you need to run some checks and balances to check if there is any hate language or profanity in it.

The ethics board generally stays at a top level in the organisation and the legal teams should also be a part. The most important part is the element of the cultural change in the organisation at an enterprise level where everybody needs to be sensitised right from top to bottom on ethical AI and the role everybody plays in it.

Who should AI be explainable to?

Anybody can ask for explainability as an authority. For example, if my loan application gets rejected and it was the basis of the decision of AI, I file a complaint with the bank. The bank should check internally why the application was rejected. It can be initiated by anybody, but there will be a team in every organisation that could be even part of the ethics board itself saying that there is a complaint against decisions made using the AI. They can ask for an audit report and all decision points on which this decision was made.

How well prepared are the regulators in respective industry sectors?

I would say it is very hard to comment right now because we are yet to see a real one coming out. I think each one of them right now are working towards it. A lot of organisations have not productionised these use cases, they are experimenting for now. They are doing these use cases where risk is low, which means for internal use cases – for HR, for IT support that are not consumer facing right now. In the absence of governance, I see that people are not comfortable to productionise it straight away.

Is data privacy creating constraints in terms of developing those AI models internally?

I would say data is not being the blocker here because in the enterprise context, they largely use their own data. But what people are sceptical about is that certain foundation models in GenAI are built on open data available in the public domain. The hesitation is that people do not have a data lineage of that model which they are using from outside. They need this tool to give them complete transparency on where the data in this model was sourced and if it is governed or not. The confidence level is low right now because of these models which are built on public domain data points.

Has there been any kind talks within the industry to create trust in the data that are used for building AI models?

There have been conversations in the industry for sure because everybody is realising that scaling is not happening as enterprises are not able to scale adequately with people using data in bits and pieces. At an industry collaboration level, open-source communities like Hugging Face are talking about it but I don't have any formal visibility in terms of what is the road map of industry bodies to come together and solve this.

What is the next stage where AI can help in revenue generation?

It's a matter of practical application. The domain and applicability still remain more onto the overall back-office automation and outcome part of it. But a lot of media and content is getting generated by GenAI, and people will certainly use content generation as a key use case to improvise customer experience and eventually increase the revenue wallet with customers.

NEWSCOPE

MURTHY'S 70-HOUR-WEEK: IS IT NATIONAL INTEREST OR CORPORATE GREED?

GURBIR SINGH

THE controversy triggered by Infosys co-founder N R Narayana Murthy's recent 'advise' to young people to work 70 hours a week refuses to die down. On Monday, December 4, on the first day of the Winter session of Parliament, three Lok Sabha MPs asked the Union government whether it is considering implementing the suggestion of the Infosys co-founder.

Vinod Khosla, co-founder of IT major, Sun Microsystems, has also joined issue and derided those who had opposed Murthy. "For people who 'felt attacked' by this they need mental health therapy. They should learn to "toughen up" and not feel attacked. OK to not work 70hrs/wk and live with the consequences of the choices you make," he said on X.

In his answer to the Lok Sabha MPs, Rameswar Teli, MoS for labour and employment, has clarified "there is no such proposal under consideration." It is unlikely there will ever be statutory acceptance of a 70-hour work week; but what Murthy and others have succeeded is to muddy the waters on work ethics in India.

This is not the first time he has pitched for back-breaking hours of work. He had earlier faced criticism in 2020, when he suggested 64 hours a week to make up for lost time during the pandemic. Are these calls in the interest of the nation? Or do they serve corporate greed?

SOURAV ROY

Skilling is the answer

The demand for an eight-hour workday rose from the back-breaking slavery of the 18-hour workday of the 19th Century Industrial Revolution. Progressive entrepreneur Robert Owen was the first to recognise the 10-hour working day in 1819; and it was the collective action by the unions that legalised 'Eight hours labour, eight hours recreation, and eight hours rest.'

Social reformer and father of Indian Constitution BR Ambedkar was among the first in India to push for eight-hour workday as the Labour Member of the Viceroy's Council in 1942. More recently, both Tamil Nadu and Karnataka tried unsuccessfully to amend the law to allow for longer working hours in an attempt to woo investors like Foxconn.

Creating replicas of sweat shops in China is not the answer to improving productivity in India. It has been repeatedly proven that the productivity of employees is a factor of improved skilling, better management, high morale and constantly improving work conditions.

Joining issue in the debate, Ronnie Screwvala, former entertainment entrepreneur and digital investor said on X: "Boosting productivity isn't just about working longer hours. It's about getting better at what you do - upskilling, having a positive work environment and fair pay for the work done. Quality of work done > clocking in more hours."

70 hrs/week the norm

The brutal fact is the exhortation of a 70-hour-week (or 11.7 hours a day) is a non-issue. The Factories Act, 1948, states a working adult can't be compelled to work over nine hours a day or 48 hours a week. However, the law is obeyed more in its breach.

The informal power loom industry that manufactures cotton textiles and artificial silk employing lakhs of weavers works on the principle of 12-hour day. So do the diamond cutting and polishing industry in Surat, the brick kilns, security guards, and agricultural labour follow the 12-hour workday. Official surveys point to a high degree of unpaid work for women, which is never registered. If all the ladies doing their household chores for their family are paid for their job, then the amount paid to them would be equivalent to a whopping 7.5% of India's GDP, says a March 2023 State Bank of India (SBI) report.

Mr Murthy, look around. Most Indians are already doing 12 hours a day, 70 hours a week! The repeated calls by the Infosys founder and other captains of industry to work longer hours is maybe directed at 'intellectual' workers associated with IT and ITeS, banking and finance. But their calls ignore research in these areas, which shows shorter working hours, and greater access to recreation and family time creates more productive employees.

The International Labour Organisation (ILO), a United Nations affiliate, studied work schedules during the pandemic, and in its January 2023 report said: "Reduced working hours and more flexible working time arrangements such as those used during the COVID-19 crisis, can benefit economies, enterprises and workers, and lay the ground for a better and more healthy work-life balance.

The report said enterprises that enforced longer working hours faced disruption from high level of resignations, and concluded: "Longer hours of work are generally associated with lower unit labour productivity, while shorter hours of work are linked with higher productivity."

Longer working hours have no co-relation to economic advancement either. The most progressive and economically advanced countries have the shortest working hours: The European Union countries have a low average of 36.4 hours per week. Of these the most advanced – Netherlands, Norway, Germany – average between 32.4 and 34.6 hours per week.

N R Narayan Murthy, worth $4.1 billion, is respected as a pioneering entrepreneur as he is seen to be largely self-made. However, his repeated calls for longer working hours has jarred that resonance as he begins to be increasingly linked with corporate greed.

GMR raises ₹3K cr for Bhogapuram airport

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Chennai

GMR Airports and Infrastructure has raised ₹3,215 crore from a consortium of five banks/ financial institutions, led by India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL), to part finance the Phase I development of Bhogapuram International Airport.

GMR has raised the funds via its step-down subsidiary GMR Visakhapatnam International Airport Limited (GVIAL), it said in an exchange filing. GVIAL has the concession to build and operate greenfield Bhogapuram International Airport, which would cater to 6 million passengers annually. Overall project cost would be ₹4,727 crore.

The ₹3,215 crore debt will be of 18 years, comprising three years of construction phase, one year of stabilisation phase and 14 years of structured repayments. With execution of these financing agreements, GVIAL has tied up the necessary debt to fund this project.

The concession provision of ₹134.55 crore will be reimbursed by the Andhra Pradesh Airports Development Corporation Limited (APADCL) and the remaining amount be funded by way of equity/CCDs/sub debt, the company said.

NFL educates farmers about use, benefits of drones

Noida: As a part of the Viksit Bharat SankalpYatra (VBSY) of the Government of India, NFL is educating farmers about the use and benefits of the drones in agriculture sector. The company is participating in the drone campaign in the tribal districts in the states of J&K, H.P., Bihar and West Bengal. The company has taken drones to the rural areas in these states and is doing demonstrations in the fields of the farmers with these drones. The company is generating awareness about this new technology which not only saves labour, but is also effective in judicious and safe use of fertilizers. The officials of the company are demonstrating the use of liquid fertilizers in the fields using these drones.

'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra' across country

Mumbai : With the aim of reaching the benefits of flagship schemes of the Government of India to the beneficiaries, nationwide campaign 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra' is being Organized by the government and this campaign was inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 15, 2023, at District Khunti, Jharkhand, on the occasion of Janjati Gaurav Din. Navratna status awarded company Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers, with other fertilizer manufacturing companies, are participating in the campaign. In agriculture sector, important information is being given regarding the balanced use of fertilizers to maintain proper health of soil by avoiding excess use of chemical fertilizers, along with spraying of nano urea, nano DAP and other micronutrient fertilizers through advanced drone technology.

Business & Beyond

Inauguration of International Training Programme for overseas professionals under MEA, ITEC

Shri Sanjay Kulshrestha, Chairman & Managing Director, HUDCO inaugurated the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India sponsoredIndian Technical and Economic Cooperation(ITEC) International Training Programme on "Housing the Urban Poor – Policy, Planning and Implementation – Indian Experience" in the presence of Shri M. Nagaraj, Director (Corporate Planning), Shri D. Guhan, Director (Finance), and other senior officials of HUDCO and HSMI. Shri Kulshrestha expressed in detail about the use of emerging technologies in the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - the largest housing programme being implemented in the country.

BHEL wins CII-EXIM Bank Award for business excellence

New Delhi: Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has won prestigious CII EXIM Bank Award for Business Excellence 2023. The award is a testament to the company's unwavering commitment to excellence, resilience and its ability to adapt to the dynamic business landscape. The Award is based on European Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM) excellence model. While BHEL's Trichy unit has bagged the coveted award; its Haridwar, Bhopal, Hyderabad, Electronics Division Bengaluru, Jhansi, Ranipet and Project Engineering Management units/ divisions have won the Platinum recognition.

NJB undertakes various promotional programmes

"Golden Fibre" Jute is an Eco-friendly &Bio-degradable fibre. Today, jute is looked upon not only as a major Textile fibre, but also as a raw material for manufacturing products which protects Environment and maintain ecological balance. Set up by the Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India, National Jute Board (NJB) is undertaking various promotional programmes in India and abroad. As part of its promotional activities, NJB has organized an "Awareness Meeting"with the representatives of Jute Mills, Jute Exporters, Jute Units, WSHGs, Artisans, etc., from various parts of India, deliberating about the various schemes under NJDP, on 30th Nov'23 at Kolkata. Mrs. MousumiPande, S.O (A&E), NJB, Kolkata, welcomed the gathering.

THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS | SPORT

11 BENGALURU SUNDAY 10.12.2023 newindianexpress.com

2024 season to be held only in one state: Shah

BCCI secretary Jay Shah said on Saturday that the second edition of the WPL will be played only in one city and it will be held in February. "As far as the venue is concerned, it will be held in one state only so that it is better logistically. Logistics are very important this time, next time we can figure it out," Shah told reporters on the sidelines of auction.

On a day when India's player pool caught the eye, Kashvee & Vrinda snapped up for big money

Two uncapped players bring crore values

GOMESH S @ Chennai

IN the lead-up to the mini auction, the talks were inevitably about who would be most expensive player and how far teams would go with the purse. The names that were discussed included overseas stars Shabnim Ismail, Chamari Athapaththu, Danni Wyatt, Annabel Sutherland and so on. There was a very valid reason for it.

However, as it is often the case, the auction in Mumbai on Saturday threw a bit of a surprise. Australia all-rounder Sutherland was the joint-most expensive player, with Delhi Capitals signing her for ₹2 crore, but joining her was a young, up and coming pacer from Chandigarh — Kashvee Gautam — as Gujarat Giants spent the same amount.

The name will ring a bell. She was the same pacer who took all ten wickets in an innings against Arunachal Pradesh in an U-19 One-Day meet three years ago. In the time since, Kashvee has come a long way as she got her maiden India-A call-up and bowled well in the recent series against England A. While she was always going to be signed, the battle to secure her services between Royal Challengers, Giants, UP Warriorz was something to watch.

After Sutherland and Kashvee came Vrinda Dinesh, an aggressive Karnataka batter who was expected to get picked, and the contest was between UP and GG before the former signed her for ₹1.3 crores.

Two Indian uncapped players getting signed for more than a crore is something no one would have had on their auction bingo. If this came as a surprise, what came as a shock was Chamari not getting picked. The Sri Lanka captain was also ignored by The Hundred. In the WBBL, she was not signed initially, but came on as injury replacement and finished as the Player of the Tournament. While it seemed like they did not want to get into a bidding war early on, Chamari was expected to comeback in an accelerated auction, but that wasn't the case. India international Devika Vaidya also did not get a team in the auction. Former West Indies all-rounder Deandra Dottin also did not picked. But there were a few overseas signings like Phoebe Litchfield (₹1 crore to GG), Danni Wyatt (₹30 lakh for UPW), Georgia Wareham (₹40 lakh for RCB), Kate Cross (₹30 lakh for RCB). ICC Associate Cricketer of the past decade Kathryn Bryce became the first Scotland player to get a chance as she was signed by Giants for ₹10 lakh. While the auction was an indication of how teams operate — while DC (Sutherland) and Mumbai (Ismail) went all out for their target — RCB bid for only few players and got them — it also said something else. With the number of players who were not picked, there could be scope for at least one more team or an increase in purse for next year.

However, the bottom line of this auction was one thing. It is about the number of lives the tournament has already changed. Take the case of Kerala all-rounder S Sajana, who has been toiling in the domestic circuit for more than a decade. She has captained the state, played the challengers on several occasions. She has had to struggle to stay in sport. Sajana was speechless when she was signed by Mumbai for ₹15 lakh. "I don't think I would have earned this much in playing all these years," she said. "When you are playing for these many years, it is the opportunity that matters more. Playing for India has been my life's dream. In the past, there have been occasions where I didn't get chances despite doing well, but I kept faith and now I have got a chance," she added.

Sajana isn't alone, Gouher Sultana has been playing senior domestic cricket since mid 2000s. The 35-year-old left-arm spinner has played for several teams, including India, and is a household name among the players. She will be showing all her experience in for UPW. Similarly, another experienced left-arm spinner Ekta Bisht, after a good domestic season, was snapped by RCB and Veda Krishnamurthy will be playing for GG. After giving it all for the sport, it seems fitting for them to get a chance at this stage. To summarise, despite the unpredictability and the chaos, this auction was a representation of the good health and the abundant player pool in the country. The rise of youngsters on one side, and the value of experience on the other. Now, there is only one direction to go — upwards.

WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE
₹6.85 crore
SPENT ON INDIAN PLAYERS
₹5.9 crore
SPENT ON OVERSEAS PLAYERS
TOP SIGNINGS
₹2 cr
Sutherland (DC)
₹2 cr
Kashvee (GG)
₹1.3 cr
Vrinda (UPW)
₹1.2 cr
Ismail (MI)
₹1 cr
Litchfield (GG)
KEY PLAYERS MISSING OUT
C Athapaththu
D Vaidya
D Dottin
A King
AJ Wellington
30 Total number of players signed in the auction
₹12.75 cr Total money spent in the auction
HOW TEAMS LOOK
UPW: Healy, Anjali, Deepti, Grace, Kiran, Lauren, Laxmi, Parshavi, Rajeshwari, Yashasri, Shweta, Ecclestone, Tahlia, Wyatt, Vrinda, Thakor, Poonam, Gouher
MI: Amanjot, Amelia, Chloe, Harmanpreet, Hayley, Humairaa, Wong, Jintimani, Natalie, Pooja, Priyanka, Saika, Yastika, Ismail, Amandeep, Sajana, Fatima, Keerthana
GG: Gardner, Mooney, Hemalatha, Harleen, Laura, Shabnam, Sneh, Tanuja, Litchfield, Meghna, Trisha, Kashvee, Priya, Lauren, Kathryn, Mannat, Veda, Tarannum
DC: Capsey, Arundhati, Jemimah, Jonassen, Laura, Marizanne, Lanning, Minnu, Poonam, Radha, Shafali, Shikha, Sneha, Taniyaa, Titas, Sutherland, Aparna, Ashwani
RCB: Smriti, Asha, Disha, Perry, Heather, Indrani, Kanika, Renuka, Richa, Shreyanka, Devine, Wareham, Coss, Bisht, Shubha, Meghana, Simran, Molineux.

Kashvee's hard work, talent pays off

KALYANI MANGALE @ Chennai

EVEN before Kashvee Gautam went unsold in the first auction earlier this year, her coach Nagesh Gupta had a message for the youngster. "I told her, 'your name getting shortlisted is a big achievement in itself. If you get selected, well and good, if you don't, keep working harder'. *Ek na ek din ho jayega*. (It will happen one day)." In less than 10 months, Gupta's heartbeats were through the roof when Gujarat Giants, UP Warriorz and Royal Challengers Bangalore were involved in a tussle for the uncapped 20-year-old, who ended up with a paycheck of ₹2 crore from Gujarat.

"At one time, they stopped at around ₹70 lakhs, and it was tense," Gupta told this daily. "We were hoping for her to get selected, but the amount she received is life-changing for Kashvee. Annabel Sutherland was the only other player to see multiple franchises vie for a player like this; she is one of the more established players. And getting this as an uncapped player is just surreal. I am sure she will learn a lot and grow more. I must say, Gujarat have got a hardworking player," the proud coach added.

Their journey as mentor and mentee started in 2017 when one of Gupta's friends suggested he look after this talented 14-year-old pacer. "When I saw her play in the first few days, she looked like an exciting prospect. She could swing the ball naturally and from that day I knew she would go a long way. Even as a young player, she was able to generate inswing because of her natural action, but there were issues with accuracy, line and length. We worked on it and I could see her mature as a bowler. If you look at her wickets in the domestic season, they are mostly bowled or LBW. Last season, she was not able to generate that much swing. She came back, worked hard and now that inswinger has become a lethal weapon for her," Gupta added.

That has worked wonders throughout the domestic season where she took 12 wickets in the senior women's T20 Trophy and five wickets in the only match she played for the North Zone in the inter-zonal T20 trophy. In 2023, she has represented India in the Emerging Asia Cup and recently India A in the three-match series against England A, Gupta believes that prepared the youngster for tougher challenges. "Those matches were eye-opening. After playing that standard of cricket, she realised she needed to keep pushing to be a better player. That's the best thing about her. She wants to learn, even when she is performing her best or she is at her lowest. I think it is the most important part of a player's journey that they should keep learning. That's the trifecta any coach wants, right? Hard work, talent and curiosity."

Gupta knows that's what makes her one of the best players in the country. In Amanjot Kaur, his other mentee, who was part of the champions Mumbai Indians squad and has played a handful of games for the senior national team, Gautam has a role model to look up to. "They started together at my academy in 2017 and since then they have pretty much practiced together. They keep motivating each other. When you look at someone you have played with representing India, it's a different kind of motivation. Something like if Aman can go at that level, 'I can do that as well'."

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Upgraded version of Vrinda ready for premier challenge

GOMESH S @ Chennai

VRINDA Dinesh was with the Karnataka U23 in Raipur on Saturday evening. She was bowling while there was a buzz around her teammates. Her name had come up in the auction and there was a bidding war that was happening. Eventually, when her teammates told her that UP Warriorz had signed her for ₹1.3 crore, she couldn't believe it. "I thought it was ₹1.3 lakh. It took me a few minutes to sink in that it was ₹1.3 crores," says an elated Vrinda.

While it was expected that she would be picked by some team, no one, including Vrinda and her family expected this big a signing. Her father S Dinesh and coach Kiran Uppoor are overjoyed by the recognition she has got in the mini auction. After all, they two have seen Vrinda go through a lot in the last couple of years. Always seen as a batting talent, Vrinda broke into the Karnataka team in 2018-19 but was not able to keep her place in successive seasons. She had the technique and aesthetics as a batter, but was not able to accelerate. So much so that people called her "Test batter". Realising the need for a change, Vrinda started working with Kiran at the NICE academy. Together, they understood the skills that have to be built and worked on it day in and day out. Every day, Vrinda would travel 20km to train with Kiran all day and come back again in the evening. "I worked on my batting for hours together for a long time. There have been days where I used to get out 8-10 times in matches (at the academy). Arjun (Dev) and Kiran would give me another chance again to go and play. So, probably failing so many times or I would rather say that having played in those kinds of matches helped me become a little more fearless now. Back then, when I was trying to take those chances and get out, I got back trying to figure out how I could improve or probably play that shot a little better and I worked on it," says Vrinda.

Vrinda Dinesh (R) with coach Kiran Uppoor | SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Through this period, what has kept her steady is her mental fortitude and hunger to do more. The setbacks have made her tougher, feels Kiran. "She comes up and says, 'No, I want to work hard. What I'm doing is not enough. I'm not in the squad because I haven't done enough'. She wants to keep pushing those limits," he says.

And it helped. The results followed as well. She got selected for the India emerging side and played in the Emerging Asia Cup. She followed it up with a stellar show in the senior T20 - 211 runs at 154 strike rate in seven innings - which has led to the India A call-up and now the WPL. For a self-confessed cricket tragic, there is not much in Vrinda's life apart from the sport. While she has worked hard to get a seat in the WPL, Vrinda wants to focus on having fun while playing the game. For that is what has helped her transform.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

WFI elections to be conducted on December 21

FIROZ MIRZA @ Chennai

THE much-awaited elections to the executive committee of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) will be held on December 21. Returning officer MM Kumar, retired Chief Justice of the High Court of J&K, issued a notification in this regard.

As has been reported by this daily over the last few days, the RO observed that all stages — except for polling, counting of votes and declaration of result — have been completed. After consulting with the ad-hoc committee, which is managing the sport in the country in absence of the WFI, the RO announced the date of voting. The elections were stayed by Punjab and Haryana High Court on August 11 just a day before the polling. Later, the Supreme Court vacated the stay.

As per the revised schedule, polling, if necessary, will be held during the special general body meeting on December 21 from 11 am to 1 pm while counting of votes will begin from 1:30 pm onwards. The results will be declared once the counting of votes gets over. However, the outcome of the result will be subject to writ petition filed before the Punjab and Haryana High Court. "The entire process of elections shall adhere to the stipulations and relevant provisions of the ratified constitution of the WFI and the Model Guidelines, 2011 issued by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Govt. of India. The result of the above elections shall however be subject to outcome of the Writ Petition (CWP) No. 16935/2023 pending before the Hon'ble Punjab and Haryana High Court," said the notification. The next hearing of the petition is scheduled in February next year.

Before the stay, former Commonwealth Games gold medallist woman wrestler Anita Sheoran was in the fray against Sanjay Kumar Singh, a candidate from the Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh's faction, for the president's post. Darshan Lal was the candidate from Brij Bhushan's camp while Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB) secretary Prem Chand Lochab represented another faction for the post of secretary. A controversy kicked off in January this year when top wrestlers, including Olympic medallists Bajrang Punia and Sakshi Malik — along with multiple Worlds medallist Vinesh Phogat — levelled allegations of sexual harassment against Brij Bhushan.

Later, the government set up an ad-hoc panel to run the sport in the country and Brij Bhushan was sidelined.

In the meantime, United World Wrestling, the world governing body, also suspended the WFI forcing the country's wrestlers to compete under the UWW banner in the World Championships. The latest announcement means the schedule for the senior national championship, announced by the ad-hoc panel on Friday, may change. The championship will be hosted by the RSPB in Jaipur from January 2 to 5. The last date to send entries is December 22. However, as per the revised schedule, by then, a newly-elected WFI will be in place which in turn may like to hold the nationals.

EXPRESS READ

Men's Jr Hockey WC: India reach quarterfinals

KUALA LUMPUR: India beat Canada 10-1 to enter the quarterfinals of the Men's Junior World Cup hockey here. The win propelled India to the second in Pool C, enough to earn them a last eight berth. For India, Aditya Arjun Lalage (8th, 43rd), Rohit (12th, 55th), Amandeep Lakra (23rd, 52nd), Vishnukant (42nd), Rajinder (42nd), Kushwaha Sourabh Anand (51st) and Uttam Singh (58th) found the target.

England beat India, seal T20I series

MUMBAI: England defeated India by four wickets in the second T20I to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in three-game series here on Saturday. Opting to bowl, Charlotte Dean (2/16), Lauren Bell (2/18), Sarah Glenn (2/13) and Sophie Ecclestone (2/13) took two wickets each as England bundled out India for 80. In reply, England overhauled the target. **Brief Scores:** India 80 all out in 16.2 overs (Rodrigues 30) lost to England 82/6 in 11.2 ovs (Capsey 25).

VHT: Bengal & Kerala storm into last 8

RAJKOT: Sudip Kumar Gharami and Anustup Majumadar's hundreds guided Bengal to an eight-wicket win over Gujarat and into the quarterfinals of the Vijay Hazare Trophy. Hundreds by openers Krishna Prasad and Rohan Kunnummal powered Kerala to a 153-run win over Maharashtra.

Brief scores: Gujarat 283/9 in 50 ovs (Panchal 101) **lost to** Bengal 286/2 in 46 ovs (Sudipta 117 n.o, Anustup 102 n.o.); Kerala 383/4 in 50 ovs (Krishna 144, Rohan 120) **bt** Maharashtra 230 in 37.4 ovs.

Can India start well in SA?

With the focus on 20-over cricket, can the newcomers continue to impress in alien conditions in South Africa. A look at the three-match T20 series...

Jaiswal vs opening bowlers

Yashasvi Jaiswal is nailed on to start in any Indian combination at the movement. His thrilling cameos at the top is a breath of fresh air in a team that has, at times, opted for a conservative approach. What he does against the likes of Marco Jansen and Gerald Coetzee inside the powerplay could decide the fate of the match itself.

Klaasen vs India's spin options

India have a lot of spinning options. Assuming there's only one spot, how that person comes up against Heinrich Klaasen could set the tempo for the death overs. Klaasen is usually destructive against both bowling types but can be very harsh on spin. The other subplot here is will India go for Ravi Bishnoi after his wicket-laden series against Australia.

India vs South Africa, Durban / Live on Star Sports/Hotstar, from 7.30 PM

SINGH POCKETS TITLE

Malkeet Singh (RSPB) beat Pankaj Advani (PSPB) in the semifinals of the 6-red snooker nationals on Saturday. Malkeet went on to claim the title | ASHWIN PRASATH

Bournemouth humble United, Liverpool beat Palace

AGENCIES @ Manchester

MANCHESTER United suffered an embarrassing 3-0 defeat against Bournemouth on Saturday as the pressure mounted on beleaguered boss Erik ten Hag.

United, languishing in sixth place, have already endured several painful moments in a troubled season but this was their lowest ebb as lowly Bournemouth ran riot.Goals from Dominic Solanke, Philip Billing and Marcos Senesi gave Bournemouth their first ever win at Old Trafford.

In the earlier match, Mohamed Salah scored his 200th goal for Liverpool before Harvey Elliott's last-gasp winner sealed a dramatic 2-1 victory against Crystal Palace. Jurgen Klopp's side were in danger of a damaging defeat in the title race after Jean-Philippe Mateta's penalty put Palace ahead in the second half at Selhurst Park.

But Palace's Jordan Ayew was sent off with 15 minutes left and Liverpool took full advantage to erase a previously spluttering performance with a blistering finale.

Scores (Premier League): Crystal Palace 1-2 Liverpool, Wolves 1-1 Nottingham Forest, Brighton 1-1 Burnley, Sheffield United 1-0 Brentford, Manchester United 0-3 Bournemouth.

Salah's 14th goal this term made him the fifth player to score 200 for Liverpool in all competitions after Ian Rush (346), Roger Hunt (285), Gordon Hodgson (241) and Billy Liddell (228). In his 247th Premier League appearance, the Egypt star also reached 150 goals in the competition, including two scored for Chelsea, putting him in the all-time top-10 list level alongside Michael Owen.

Despite Salah's landmark, a point would have been a disappointing result for Liverpool, but young midfielder Elliott came off the bench to seal the points in stoppage time.

Bayern ship five

Bayern Munich suffered a jolt to their title defence, losing their first league game of the season 5-1 in Frankfurt and handing Bayer Leverkusen the chance to open a six-point lead at the top of the Bundesliga.

Real held

In La Liga, Real Betis held Real Madrid 1-1. Jude Bellingham had opened the scoring for the visitors but Aitor Rubal restored parity 24 minutes from time.

The government has rejected allegations of its involvement in any act of violence in Canada, Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan said in reply to a question in LS

PANNUN, NIJJAR CASES

WHY DIFFERENT STROKES ON U.S. INDICTMENT, CANADA'S CHARGES

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

TWO allegations of Indian hit jobs against Khalistani radicals, one in Canada and the other in the US, got intertwined after the US Justice Department unsealed an indictment against a suspect recently. While the Canadian one was of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, who was shot dead outside a gurdwara in British Columbia by two unknown assailants on June 18, the US charge was about a murder-for-hire case against an Indian national who was allegedly part of a plot to bump off Sikh separatist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun in New York City.

India has since formed a high-level panel to go into the indictment, since the US alleges that the operation against Pannun was handled remotely by an official in New Delhi. The handler was with the CRPF earlier, it claims. The middleman the handler recruited bragged to the assassin-on-hire about Nijjar being on their hit list, too, but was eliminated by someone else, hence the intertwining. Besides, the handler allegedly sent a video of Nijjar's body to the middleman, who shared it with the hired gun.

Matter of concern

While the foreign office described allegations in the US plot as a matter of concern since it is not India's policy to eliminate people it does not agree with, it simply brushed aside Canada's charges. Just the other day, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar told Rajya Sabha that there will be no equitable treatment to Canada's allegations as no specific evidence or inputs were provided by them.

"Insofar as the US is concerned, certain inputs were given to us as part of our security cooperation with the US. Those inputs were of concern to us because they (were) related to the nexus of organised crime, trafficking and other matters... Because they have a bearing on our own national security, an inquiry committee has been constituted," he said.

Short shrift

When the matter first surfaced at the G20 summit in Delhi in September, India brusquely told off Canada, asking it to substantiate its charges. Nijjar's murder figured in the bilateral meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi had with his Canadian counterpart Justin Trudeau on the sidelines of the summit. What transpired between them is not known but Trudeau went into a deep sulk till he left India. Bilateral relations nosedived with both sides expelling a diplomat each and India forcing Canada to withdraw 41 'excess' diplomats citing the principle of parity in diplomatic representation. India also temporarily froze visa services for Canadian citizens. The facility has just been restored.

At the same G20 meet, US President Joe Biden, too, brought up the Nijjar case with Modi, yet there was bonhomie all around. It was an indication of the maturing of mutual ties, since the US hopes to use India as a pivot in its ambition to rein in China.

Hate merchant

India-born Pannun holds US and Canadian citizenship, hence the American concern about an alleged attempt on his life. "We will not tolerate efforts to assassinate US citizens on US soil, and stand ready to investigate, thwart, and prosecute anyone who seeks to harm and silence Americans here or abroad," U S Attorney Damian Williams said after the indictment was unsealed.

A lawyer by training, Pannun is a known hate merchant who incites Sikh extremists and incentivises attacks on India. He is the founder of Sikhs for Justice (SFJ), an outfit banned in India. Pannun often shares videos threatening India of extreme violence ranging from sabotaging Air India's flights to attacking airports. He recently claimed responsibility for Khalistani graffiti on the walls of the Chintpurni temple in Himachal Pradesh. His latest is the threat to attack Parliament. Yet, the US inexplicably is yet to make him accountable for fostering a terror factory.

Shoddy job

On November 29, the US Attorney Office in the Southern District of New York unsealed the indictment, which claimed they had foiled a plot to kill a US national on their soil; it didn't name Pannun. It only identified the middleman as Nikhil Gupta, 52, who was arrested in Prague on June 30. After a Prague court approved his extradition to the US, he filed an appeal against the order.

The indictment alleges Gupta's involvement in international weapons and narcotics trafficking. He was embroiled in a narcotics case in Gujarat when his handler tapped him for the dirty work and promised he would make his case go away if he complied. Gupta took the bait, the indictment claims.

However, initial reports suggest the Centre's national registry on narcotics traffickers does not have any record of a Nikhil Gupta in Gujarat. Entries in five different states pop up during a random search for the name, but not in Gujarat.

Gupta is the only person named in the 15-page indictment, which refers to his handler as CC-1. The handler, it claims, is an Indian intelligence officer based in Delhi, who was earlier trained in the CRPF. The resource person Gupta reached out to for hiring a hitman is referred to as CS. CS was working for the US law enforcement department, so the alleged plot was under the scanner ever since. Through CS, Gupta got introduced to the alleged hitman, who actually was an undercover agent of the US law enforcement department. The indictment calls him UC.

The charges in the indictment are accusations. The defendant is presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

A bare reading of the alleged indictment gives you a sense of a muddled operation by an amateur handler who makes all the wrong calls but has financial resources at his disposal. Check out the tentative timeline put out in the indictment in the accompanying box.

20+ terrorists killed in Pak

In what appears to be a completely unrelated development, over 20 terrorists have been killed in Pakistan since March 2022. Quite a few of them were involved in terror attacks against Indian security forces and other assets. The unexplained killings include those of Maulana Ziaur Rehman, Mufti Qaiser Farooq, Shahid Latif and Adnan Ahmad. Besides, Khalistani terrorist Lakhbir Singh Rode, a nephew of Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, reportedly died of a heart attack in Pakistan on December 2.

Adnan Ahmed was a mastermind behind the 2016 attack on a CRPF convoy in Pampore. He was attacked by unknown gunmen in Karachi on December 3 and succumbed to his wounds two days later. Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist Shahid Latif was the mastermind behind the 2016 Pathankot terror attacks. He was killed on October 11 by unidentified gunmen in Sialkot, Pakistan.

Ziaur Rehman was a Lashkar-e-Toiba member and a cleric who radicalised the youth to launch a jihad against India. He was shot dead by unknown motorcycle-borne assailants on September 29.

THE TENTATIVE TIMELINE IN THE INDICTMENT

Gurpatwant Singh Pannun

Hardeep Singh Nijjar

May: Through a series of messages, CC-1 connects with Gupta to recruit him for the alleged murder of Pannun. Quid pro quo: criminal cases against him in Gujarat would go away. Gupta agrees and meets CC-1 in Delhi

May 6: CC-1 texts Gupta that they have targets in New York and California. Gupta responds saying "we will hit our all targets"

May 12: CC-1 informs Gupta that his cases in Gujarat had been taken care of, assures the police would not trouble him henceforth

May 23: CC-1 further reassures Gupta that his cases have been managed; offers to arrange a meeting with a Deputy Commissioner of Police in Gujarat

May 29: Gupta contacts CS over the phone, who he thinks is a criminal associate; seeks assistance in contracting a hitman in NYC, names Pannun as target. CS seeks more information on Pannun and $1,00,000 for the hit job. Deal okayed by CC-1, who was actually willing to pay $1,50,000 or more 'depending upon the quality of the work'

June 1: CC-1 shares the target's address with Gupta, who passed it on to CS

June 3: Gupta calls CS on his phone and urges him to complete the job; updates CC-1 about the conversation

June 4: CS sends Gupta surveillance photo of Pannun saying he was being monitored and the job would be done if an advance payment of $25,000 is made

June 5: Gupta asks CC-1 if his contacts can make the advance payment

June 6: Gupta asks CS to connect him with the hitman to whom the advance is to be paid. CS introduces him to UC through messages. Gupta shares with CC-1. Besides, Gupta tells CS to calm things down for 10 days because of upcoming US-India meetings at the highest level, so as to avoid adverse political attention

June 7: Gupta informs CC-1 the advance is yet to be paid

June 9: CC-1 assures Gupta that the payment would be made soon. An associate hands over $15,000 in cash to UC in the latter's car in Manhattan after a video call with Gupta. A screenshot of the cash exchange is part of the indictment

June 11: CC-1 tells Gupta if the killing doesn't happen today, it would have to be done after June 24. Prime Minister Modi was in the US for a bilateral summit with President Joe Biden between June 21 and 24

July 12: Gupta calls up UC and strangely (instead of being cautious) turns on the video camera exposing three men present in the room. Anyone with even an iota of commonsense would want to build distance from the assassin for deniability instead of exposing his associates. Gupta tells UC that they were counting on him, dangles carrot of another big hit job in Canada

June 14: Gupta asks CS for a similar murder-for-hire team in Canada

June 18: Masked gunmen kill Hardeep Singh Nijjar outside a gurdwara in British Columbia, Canada. CC-1 shares a video clip of Nijjar's bloody body slumped in his vehicle with Gupta, who forwards it to CS and UC. An hour later, CC-1 shares Pannun's NYC street address

June 19: Gupta tells UC over phone that Nijjar was one of their targets but not high on the pecking order. He also calls CS and says since they had not bumped off Nijjar, the job was given to someone else. After Nijjar's killing, they want to expedite the NYC hit despite Modi's trip. "We got the go-ahead to go anytime – today or tomorrow at the earliest possible. UC has to finish this job brother," Gupta allegedly tells CS, warns that Pannun would be cautious as Nijjar was liquidated

June 20: CC-1 sends a news story about Pannun to Gupta with a message – it's a priority now. Gupta calls CS, gives him time till June 29 to finish four hit jobs – Pannun plus three other undefined ones in Canada

June 22: CC-1 messages Gupta that the target is not at home. Gupta's call to UC goes unanswered. He then messages UC that the victim was not at home, asks him to ensure the target is in the house before entering it

June 25: UC sends Gupta some photos taken from the vicinity of Pannun's residence which had GPS coordinate stamps. Gupta forwards them to CC-1

June 26: CC-1 tells Gupta the coming 24 hours will be crucial for Pannun... either at home or office. Gupta forwards this to UC asking him to keep his eyes on Pannun's residence, office and a café he is a regular in

June 29: Gupta messages UC that he had intel that Pannun is in his residence and is likely to come out; instructs UC to carry out the act and get photos if he is sure

June 30: Gupta travels to the Czech Republic from India. No mention in the indictment on when he came to India and whether he was sending out the last few messages from India or the US. Gupta arrested by the Czech law enforcement department. Strangely, he does not seek consular support in Prague, chooses to fights the case through his own lawyer

Illustration: Soumyadip Sinha

UNDERSTANDING THE MIZO MANDATE

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR

A NEW sun has risen over the Lushai Hills. In the battle between David and Goliath, such was the might of greenhorn Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) that it swept away the ruling Mizo National Front (MNF). The Mizos voted en masse for the new party with high hopes. This term would decide if it ends up as a one-election wonder or one to last long.

How was ZPM born?

Mizoram attained statehood on February 20, 1987, more than 15 years after it was created as a Union Territory. An over two-decade-long Mizo uprising, which saw the Indian Air Force carrying out airstrikes in Aizawl in 1966 to crush the movement in its early days, preceded statehood. The MNF spearheaded that movement.

Over the next four decades or so since statehood, the contest for power in the tiny and rugged state had been invariably between MNF and Congress. But an alliance movement started taking shape from the early part of 2017 to provide an alternative to the Mizos.

Seven smaller regional parties - the Mizoram People's Party, Zoram Democratic Front, Zoram Reformation Front, Zoram Nationalist Party, Mizoram People's Conference, Zoram Exodus Movement and National Congress Party - came together and floated ZPM ahead of 2018 polls.

Stunning rise

Amid an anti-incumbency wave ahead of 2018 elections, the talk of the town was that ZPM would spring a surprise by ousting the 10-year-old Congress government but MNF under Zoramthanga managed to return to power by decimating the grand old party which finished with just five seats.

ZPM was not a recognised political outfit then and its 36 candidates had contested as independents but under the party's flag and symbol. They bagged eight seats with incumbent Chief Minister Lalduhoma winning from two seats. The recognition from the Election Commission finally came in 2019. However, the largest party in the alliance – Mizoram People's Conference – left the conglomerate as ZPM became a political party.

Following defeat, Congress biggie and former Chief Minister Lal Thanhawla went into political retirement. Over the next five years, Congress' popularity further dwindled but ZPM had a steady rise. In the closely-knit Mizo society, ZPM workers started working in tandem with various civil society and church organisations in the Christian-majority state and strengthened the party's base all over.

That ZPM would give MNF a run for its money in the 2023 polls was evidenced by its stellar performance in Lunglei Municipal Council elections held in March this year. It had swept the polls, winning all 11 seats.

Candidate quality

With MNF going to elections with a bagful of failures, Congress' popularity waning and BJP fighting its anti-Christian image, ZPM became a natural choice of voters. It bagged 27 of the 40 seats to form the state's first non-MNF and non-Congress government. One factor cited as the main reason behind its success is its choice of candidates. Thirty-three were new faces with several of them well-known in the Mizo society. Then, women and youth were believed to have voted in large numbers in ZPM's favour.

Who is Lalduhoma?

ZPM fought the elections under the suave former Indian Police Service officer-turned-politician Lalduhoma. He is also a church leader known for his oratory skills and clean image. He, however, holds the dubious distinction of being disqualified twice – both as an MP and MLA – under the anti-defection law. His formative years in politics were in the Congress.

Born in 1949, Lalduhoma took the plunge into politics in 1984 when he had joined the Congress after resigning as former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's security in-charge. The party had elected him as its Mizoram chief and his political goal was to find a solution to the Mizo insurgency movement. He had successfully contested the 1984 Lok Sabha elections. However, he withdrew his membership from the party in 1986 in protest against the delay in the Mizo peace accord. Subsequently, he was disqualified under the anti-defection law for giving up the membership of the party. He was the first MP in the country to be disqualified under this law. He was elected to the Assembly thrice – 2003, 2018 and 2023. He was disqualified as an MLA in 2020 for "defecting" to ZPM after having won the 2018 polls as an independent.

Lalduhoma, Mizoram CM

Challenges ahead

Pulling the state out of its precarious financial position, unemployment, underdevelopment, drug menace and alleged corruption in the system will be among the prime challenges. Ahead of his swearing-in, Lalduhoma had stated that the youth were disappointed with the MNF's performance. The rate of unemployment is as high as 23%. ZPM has inducted one of its two winning female candidates in the ministry, thereby sending across a message that it stands for women empowerment. Lalduhoma said ZPM won as women voters, who outnumbered their male counterparts, largely voted for the party.

The drug problem in the state is alarming. According to the state's Excise and Narcotics Department, drug consumption killed 1,794 people in the state since 1984. The figure for this year stands at 58. Frustration due to unemployment is believed to be a key reason why the youth take to drugs.

Drugs, manufactured in Myanmar, are often smuggled into India through the porous international border. The previous government admitted drug-smuggling from Myanmar increased in the wake of the political unrest in the neighbouring country. The new government's challenge will be to choke the supply routes.

It goes without saying that taking Mizoram out of the precarious financial situation will be the biggest challenge. Lalduhoma said his government would bring in financial reforms by constituting a resource mobilisation team comprising experts. Its effort will be to look after austerity measures, disinvestment, manpower assessment etc.

Building infrastructure, particularly roads, will be another challenge. When road infrastructure in most states in the Northeast improved significantly under the Narendra Modi government, there are rickety roads galore in the state much to the chagrin of Mizos.

Finding a solution to the refugee problem will be another challenge for the new government. Some 35,000 refugees from Myanmar and Bangladesh are taking refuge in the state. Lalduhoma said he would meet Union home minister Amit Shah and external affairs minister S Jaishankar and take up the issue.

Top priority

Its immediate priority will be to buy products such as ginger, turmeric, chilli and broomsticks from its "friends" – the local farmers. They grew these allegedly as advised by the previous government but did not get a market. Lalduhoma said the process of procurement would begin soon.